

THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER

A Non-Partisan Publication Dedicated To The Reporting Of Your Local Government At Work
Serving Posey, Vanderburgh & Warrick Counties & Their Communities

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...Exclusive News Story... McCurdy deal leads to many unanswered questions

By Jamie Grabert, Publisher

For the better part of the last six months, the staff of the City-County Observer has been researching the purchase of the McCurdy and the parking lot. The many documents located in the Evansville Department Metropolitan Development, Vanderburgh County Assessor's Office, Vanderburgh County Treasurer's Office, archives of the press releases, personal interviews and other media outlets present more questions than answers.

The questions began with the puzzling fact that in 2007 the City of Evansville, through the Redevelopment Commission, purchased the McCurdy parking lot for \$655,000, when it had been purchased two years prior to that for a measly \$125,000 by John Dunn.

At that time, questions were raised as to why the city would pay so much for a parking lot. The response from the Redevelopment Commission was that they wanted to ensure that it would remain a parking lot.

While reviewing minutes from the Redevelopment Commission, many questions surfaced regarding the parking lot. For example, on November 5, 2008, the commission approved Resolution 08-ERC-66, which is a resolution "Approving and Authorizing Execution of Exclusive License Agreement for Parking Lot Located in the Downtown Redevelopment Area With City Centre Properties LLC." Enter more questions.

Why would the city enter a lease agreement for parking spaces with an Indianapolis-based firm? Who is City

Centre Properties? The answers quickly became apparent, after reading a little further down in the minutes.

According to the minutes, the above resolution "would authorize the commission to enter into a License Agreement with City Centre Properties, LLC for use of the parking lot adjacent to the McCurdy building. City Centre Properties, LLC will obtain financing and purchase the associated real estate."



After further reviewing the resolution, it was discovered that the lease was assigned to Fifth Third Bank. Calls made to the Dept. of Metropolitan Development asking the terms of the lease were not returned.

In a recent interview, the staff of the City County Observer discovered that Riverwalk Communities, the assisted living facility currently located in the McCurdy, and whose residents are facing a horrifying eviction by Scott, is paying the Redevelopment Commission \$250 a month for the use of the parking lot.

At the bottom of the same page, the Redevelopment Commission approved a single accounts payable voucher. The minutes reflect the following statement: "An accounts payable voucher was presented to authorize funds for a previously approved Capital Development Project located at 101 SE First St. (McCurdy) in the amount of \$800,000 to McCurdy Investments Inc. Mr. Brad Salmon [board attorney] stated that the voucher is payable to McCurdy Investments rather than City Centre LLC for

continued on page 14

Attorney General Greg Zoeller: Open the books so Hoosiers can follow the money

INDIANAPOLIS — If riverboat casino dollars flow into a development company's coffers, that company should be required to disclose how it spends the money, Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller urged legislators today.

Zoeller testified at a hearing of the legislative Gaming Study Committee about his continuing support of a proposal to require public disclosure by any for-profit or nonprofit corporation that receives casino revenue through a Local Development Agreement or LDA.

In communities with riverboat casinos, state law requires that an LDA be set up so a portion of casino revenue is set aside and directed to fund local economic development projects to boost tourism.

Zoeller's support of a legislative change to update state law and require transparency stems from the case of East Chicago Second Century, Inc. That for-profit corporation received 0.75 percent of the revenue from the East Chicago riverboat casino — or \$16 million over 10 years — under a 1995 LDA brokered by former East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick.

"Second Century has for years resisted any public disclosure or accounting of how the gambling proceeds were used or how the money benefited East Chicago," Zoeller said. "Gaming has to be licensed by the state, and other gaming revenues flow back to the state, so it's a mystery why the Second Century board would be so secretive about how it uses gaming dollars."

The Attorney General's office filed a lawsuit to force Second Century to open its books and to impose a legal framework called a "constructive trust" over the organization to create accountability. Second Century got the case dismissed at the trial court and Indiana Court of Appeals levels, but the Attorney General appealed to the Indiana Supreme Court. On April 13, the state's highest court ruled in the Attorney General's favor and revived the case -- and remanded it back to the trial court to decide whether Second Century must make public disclosure of how it spent casino revenue.

"Beyond asking the trial court to impose a constructive trust on the Second Century organization and reform its operation, we are trying to pry open the long-closed financial books to find out who benefited from the \$16 million Second Century received," Zoeller said. "We are asking the trial court to do that with Second Century, and we are asking the Legislature to require that same public disclosure wherever casinos have Local Development Agreements with outside entities, not just in East Chicago."

A disclosure proposal that Zoeller worked on with legislators was contained in an earlier version of last spring's House Bill 1514, but in the provision was removed during conference-committee negotiations in the final days of the regular session in late April. The overall bill passed into law. Now the Attorney General is asking legislators to revive the LDA provision in the next session that starts in January.

The proposal would apply to any organization that receives casino revenue through an LDA: a for-profit corporation, a nonprofit such as a community foundation, or a charitable trust. Results of an audit would be made public, with certain exceptions for economic development that still could be reviewed by the Attorney General's office.

If we prevail in the trial court, disclosure would apply to Second Century only; but if the Legislature approves this statutory change, then it would be the law statewide and would apply to any similar arrangements in other riverboat communities," Zoeller said. "While gaming has created tourism business and jobs, those who receive funds from the gaming industry ought to do so under the floodlight of complete scrutiny," he said.

"Gaming is not an industry that historically has had the public's complete trust. Public disclosure is the antidote for public distrust," Zoeller added.

Today's meeting of the Gaming Study Committee is the third such hearing of the joint House-Senate panel as it considers gambling-related legislation in advance of the 2010 session. Zoeller and Deputy Attorney General David Miller testified before the 11-member committee today.

New leadership in East Chicago canceled the Pastrick-era LDA contract, and approximately \$6.3 million in revenue remained in escrow at the end of 2008.

The administration of former Mayor Pastrick in East Chicago was the subject of a long-running corruption investigation in which the Attorney General's office brought a racketeering lawsuit against Pastrick and other East Chicago political figures. In June, Pastrick and former mayoral aide James Fife III defaulted in the lawsuit and a judgment was entered against them on every racketeering count the Attorney General alleged. The federal court has not yet awarded damages in the East Chicago racketeering case.

The separate civil lawsuit of Zoeller v. Second Century awaits trial in Marion County Superior Court.



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Redevelopment Commission needs leadership, direction

By Jamie Grabert

The Evansville Redevelopment Commission met Tuesday morning. The members' apparent purpose was merely to rubber stamp whatever was needed for the new arena.

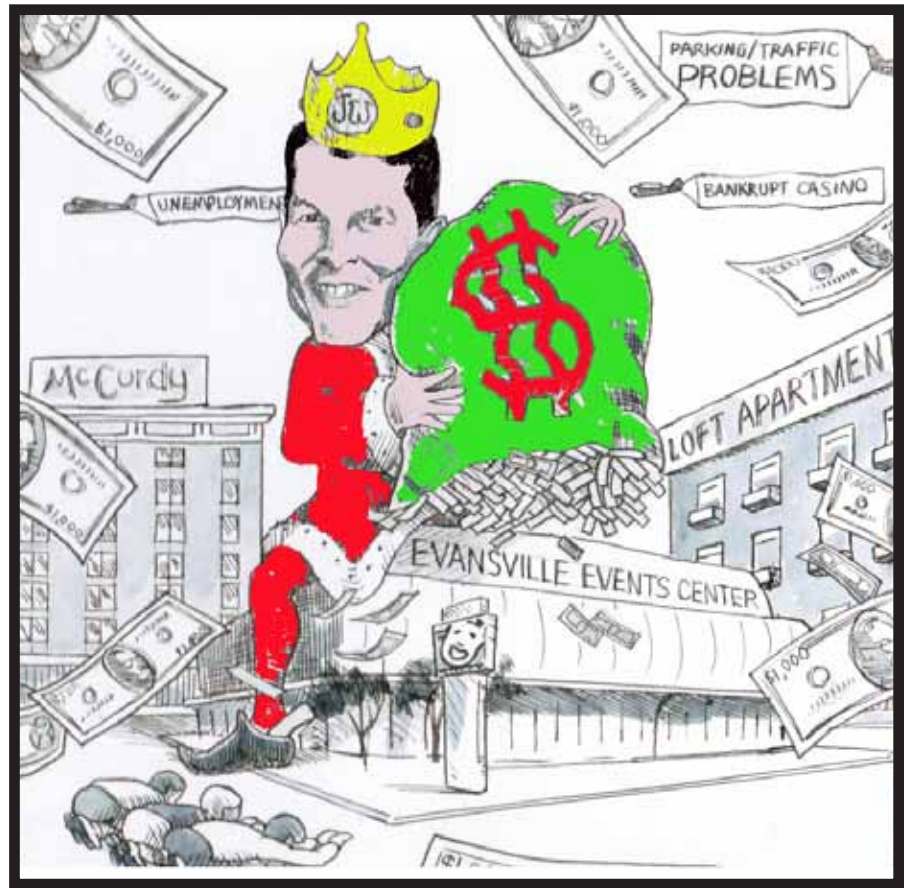
Sitting through public meetings, you expect scrutiny by those elected and appointed to serve the best interests of the community. You expect questions to be raised when a contractor stands before you and asks for your business and money. You expect the members to be at least semi-educated on the topics before they make a decision and vote for something without a clear direction or proper planning. But, those are only expectations, they are an ideology.

Tuesday's meeting was far from that ideology. The meeting began with Ted Uebelhor leading the meeting in the absence of President Bob Goldman. Uebelhor attempted to approve all Accounts Payable Vouchers at one time, but Board attorney Brad Salmon quickly stopped the board and asked them to make the motions individually. Uebelhor then asked the board members to approve a voucher from Populus (the company designing the new arena). No dollar amount was offered in the meeting, but the board approved the voucher unanimously. The board members then approved the voucher register with no dollar amounts being discussed or mentioned.

After approving design applications for Berry Plastics and R&G Properties/Cambridge Apartments, the commission quickly turned their eyes back to the arena. John Kish stood before the board to give an update on the project.

According to Kish, the city will close next month on the financing for the arena. He stated that the city needed to hire a firm that has experience in constructing an arena. He followed that statement by telling the commissioners that Hunt Construction Group Inc. was the right company for the job. There was no public bid process. No other companies had the chance to bid for the job. The staff of the City-County Observer was also told that this is the same group that led the construction of the Indianapolis Airport Expansion, of which Kish was also the project manager.

The members of the Redevelopment Commission voted in



favor of Resolution 09-ERC-64 "Approving Agreement with Hunt Construction Group, Inc. as construction manager for Downtown Multi-Purpose Arena." There was no dollar figure given in the public meeting. Kish also noted that there were costs involved that were not in the contract, but had been factored into the "hard costs" of the construction. One such item he listed was porta-potties.

Uebelhor asked Kish if the contract was standard. Kish stated that other than the insurance portion of the contract, it was.

The commissioners then voted on a tabled resolution from the October 10, 2009 meeting. This resolution authorized the second addendum to the agreement between the owner and the architect. This was for the final two phases, including the final fee and contract with Populus. No other information was given. The commissioners approved the contract without hesitation.

The commissioners then approved Resolution 09-ERC-69,

Redevelopment Commission...continued from page 4

which approved Precision Piping and Mechanic Inc. (PPMI) to move the old, brick sewer lines between Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and Locust Street. According to Kish, six bids were received. They were not opened in a public meeting. But a local business is getting the work.

Kish also said they are waiting to get a permit for the work back from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) before the work can begin. This is because the current line is a combined sewer line.

While the commissioners unanimously approved the resolution, no dollar amounts or work specifications or guarantees were presented to the audience.

Kish then asked the commissioners to authorize him to seek bids for the elevators and escalators and the foundation for the new arena. The commissioners authorized the requests for bids.

The insurance for the project was tabled until representatives from Old National Bank can gather all the necessary information to complete their proposal and recommendation. One commissioner, however, asked an interesting question regarding the insurance on the arena. He asked if the city needs \$100 million insurance on a \$100 million building.

Tuesday was apparently a day of reckoning for representatives of the African American Museum, which was suffered at the hand of Commissioner Phil Lieberman. He hit them with a barrage of questions and condescending statements regarding the finances of the museum.

Museum Board Director Lana Burton went before the Redevelopment Commission to ask for an extension to their challenge matching grant. She asked for the extension to be in effect until 2011.

Lieberman stated that the grant ended in 2007 and asked why she had waited so long to go before the board and ask for an extension.

Burton said that she had spoken with Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel's office about this matter, and she was not aware that she needed to do this.

Uebelhor stated that if she has problems with the mayor's office, she needs to address those problems with the mayor.

Lieberman then asked how much they have raised in their capital campaign.

Burton said she was not sure and would find that out.

Lieberman then said that the money should not be used for operating expenses or in-kind services.

Burton, on the defensive, asked if other organizations have had the same stipulations.

She received no direct answer, but instead received a bunch of mumbling and circle-talk from the commissioners.

The board members then asked Dept. of Metropolitan Development worker Lana Abel how much money the African American Museum has received from their grant. Lieberman and the other board members were shocked to find out that the African American Museum had only received \$600,000 of a \$1 million grant. Abel noted that \$400,000 had been paid for construction; another \$200,000 was given as part of the 4:1 challenge match. (The matching provision started in January 2008.)

The commissioners ended up tabling the resolution for the grant extension.

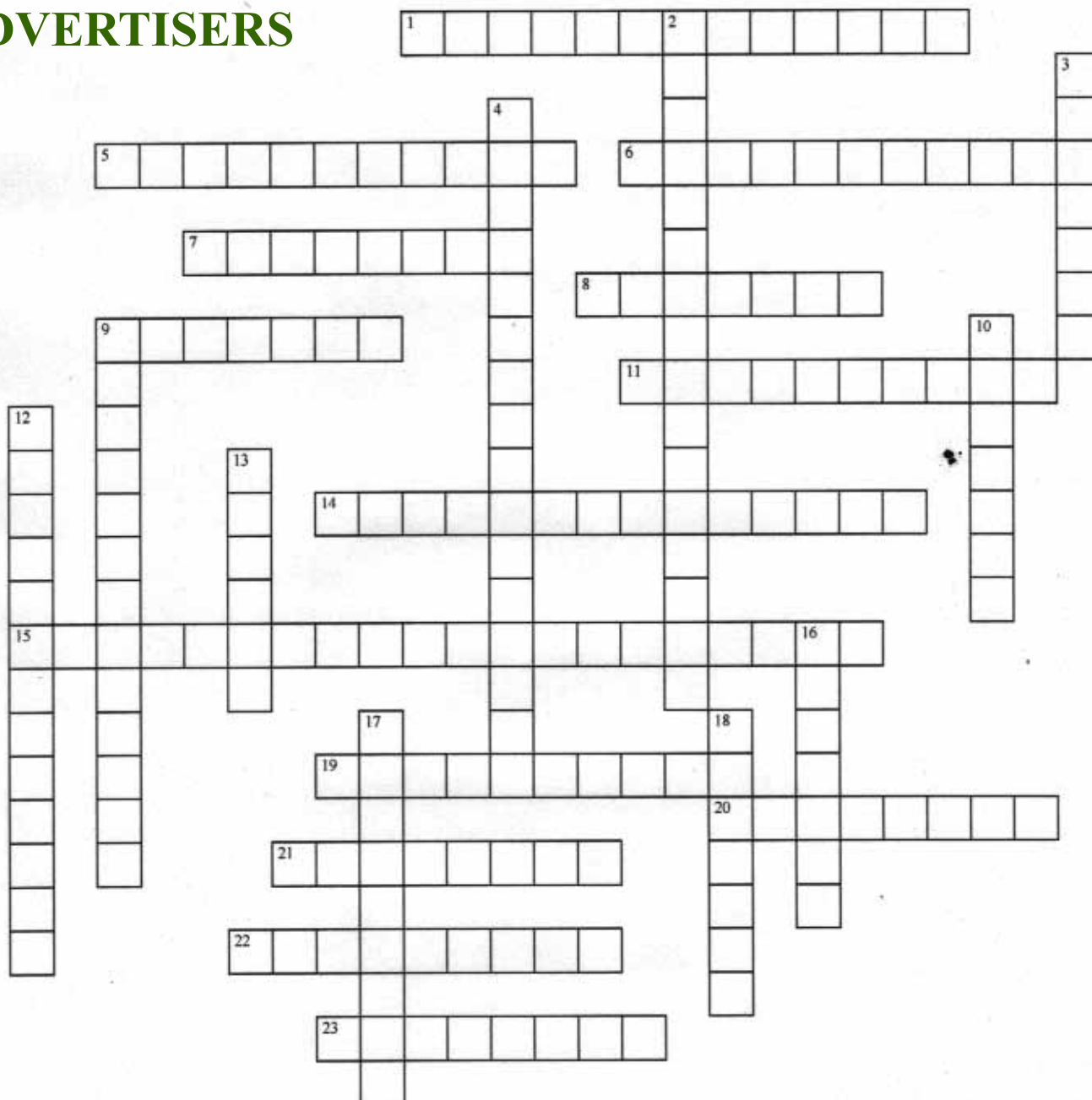
Sharon Walker, a consultant for the museum's capital campaign, then approached the commissioners. She noted that the museum is currently taking part in an audit. She said they are going through the records to enter pledges, donations and in-kind donations into a database. Walker added that they are in the process of restructuring the board and bringing in new donors and participants.

The meeting ended with Abel reminding the board of Tuesday's demolition of the Lopp and Lopp Building.

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- 2 BY FAR THE MOST OUTSTANDING FAMILY-OWNED AND OPERATED PHARMACY IN THE REGION
- 3 EVANSVILLE'S NEWEST LIQUOR STORE
- 4 ATTORNEY WHO DOES AN OUTSTANDING JOB WITH CLAIMS AGAINST GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

PUZZLE

Community Newsmakers - Clues

ACROSS

- 7 HARD-WORKING REAL ESTATE AGENT WITH ERA
- 8 BEST CHICKEN WINGS IN TOWN
- 9 GREAT JEWELRY STORE WITH IMPRESSIVE STONES AT LOW PRICES
- 11 SERVES THE BEST TATER IN THE REGION
- 14 FIRST PLACE TO CHECK OUT FOR YOUR NEXT LOAN
- 15 AN AUCTION & REALTY COMPANY THAT ENJOYS A GREAT REPUTATION
- 19 OUTSTANDING WESTSIDE NIGHT CLUB
- 20 WHO CAN TAKE CARE OF ALL YOUR PEST PROBLEMS
- 21 OUTSTANDING LUXURY CAR DEALERSHIP
- 22 BEST PLACE FOR CANTONESE FOOD
- 23 FAMILY-OWNED AND OPERATED LIQUORS SINCE 1946

DOWN

- 9 NICE APARTMENTS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES
- 10 ANOTHER TOP LOCAL HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING BUSINESS
- 12 THE PLACE FOR GREAT FIDDLERS
- 13 MONSTER EATING PLACE WITH HOMEMADE PIE
- 16 LOCAL SPORTS BAR ON GREEN RIVER ROAD
- 17 ONE OF THE TOP HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING BUSINESSES IN THE AREA
- 18 THE PLACE TO PURCHASE YOUR TIRES

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Change to 2010 Budget: City Seeks to Cover Employee Contribution to PERF

Submitted by the City of Evansville

(EVANSVILLE, IN) – Two major changes have been made to the 2010 City budget which is scheduled for consideration tonight by the Evansville City Council. The City hopes to cover the non-bargaining employees contribution to the Public Employees' Retirement Fund (PERF) in 2010 and plans to change the Third Party Administrator (TPA) for the City's health insurance plan.

"We've been listening to the concerns of non-represented employees and how the proposed budget cuts would affect them. Because we are able to realize savings elsewhere, we will be able to continue to cover the employees' contribution to PERF," said Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel.

The initial City budget, which was submitted to Council in August, called for non-bargaining employees to begin paying a state-mandated 3% of their salaries to PERF which previously had been covered by the City. The 2010 budget has been changed to indicate that the City will continue to cover that 3% in addition to the 7% that it is legally required to contribute. The City will be able to cover the employee PERF contribution due to updated income tax numbers which indicate that the City will receive more revenue in 2010 than initially projected.

The City also expects to see savings by changing its TPA to Meritain Health. By choosing Meritain Health, the City anticipates being able to recognize deeper discounts. Changes to the health benefit plan that were announced in the budget presented in August will remain.

The budget that is being presented to City Council reflects a reduction in revenues due to reinstatement of the local homestead tax credit, less local income tax revenue, and property tax reform that placed caps on the amount of taxes any one property owner would pay.

Previously, the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) had estimated the City would see property tax revenue drop by \$3,023,941 in 2010 due to the caps. Newly revised figures show the estimated loss in 2010 at \$3,947,643. In 2011, the LSA estimated the City's loss due to property tax caps at \$3,598,203 and now it says that number will be approximately \$4,547,662.

Despite the reduced revenue, the 2010 budget provides the services that residents have come to expect while living within our means and minimizing job loss among city employees. The budget also maintains prudent cash balances as an insurance policy against further erosion of the economy and unexpected expenditures.

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— THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

EDITORIAL

IS IT TRUE?

Compiled by Moles Number 1 through 83...and counting

SHE TELLS IT LIKE IT IS!

IS IT TRUE we agree with the opinion of our outstanding CITY Clerk that the new health clinic set up to serve the needs of our non-union city employees will not meet the needs of city employees?

WHAT'S THE HURRY?

IS IT TRUE THAT THE McCURDY CONDO PROJECT IS STILL DORMANT AFTER 4 YEARS? Is it true we are now wondering why the developer is now in such a hurry to begin this project to the point he wants to evict the senior citizens staying at the Assistant Living facility (RIVERWALK COMMUNITIES) presently housed in the McCurdy building? IS IT TRUE the Mayor is extremely worried that this project may not happen? Is it true that if this project falls through this will add to his list of political woes that he and city council members will have to defend in the next election cycle?

PLOY WON'T WORK!

IS IT TRUE that an Evansville City Councilwoman is asking people to attend council meetings and sit in the front row? IS IT TRUE she feels that if her buddies show up and sit in front, then the "FREEDOM MAKERS" will become less visible to people watching meeting on WNIN T.V.? IS IT TRUE we will see if the Councilwoman's ploy works at the next meeting?

BUY WHAT—DO WHAT?

IS IT TRUE the Evansville Airport Authority has over a \$2 million dollar short fall this year? IS IT TRUE they have lost over \$50,000 on a golf course they own this year? IS IT TRUE the EVANSVILLE AIRPORT only has 2 major airlines flying out of Evansville? IS IT TRUE we wonder why the Mayor of

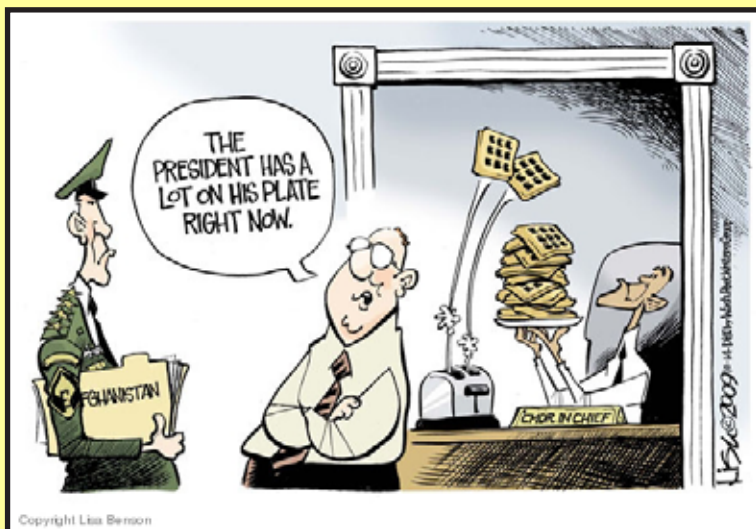
Evansville wants the Airport Authority to join him in buying (Multi-million DOLLAR Deal) the soon-to-be-vacant Whirlpool plant to tear it down and build a RESEARCH facility? IS IT TRUE the Airport Authority should spend their time and efforts in attracting more major airlines to fly out of EVANSVILLE? IS IT TRUE we are extremely excited to hear the AIRPORT AUTHORITY Board of Directors will soon have new board appointees? IS IT TRUE that the new board will bring back good conservative business values and a common sense approach to governing? IS IT TRUE that Douglas Joist's (airport Financial Director) six-month financial review memo stated that the Airport Authority so far this year has an operating loss of \$355,260.12?

THANKS, CHANNEL 14!

IS IT TRUE that the Vanderburgh County Commissioner Troy Tornatta's refusal to allow a Channel 14 News Television crew to cover the meeting concerning the discussion of MAJESTIC PLACE was wrong and will cause him political problems next year? IS IT TRUE we are happy to see other local media catching on to the need for Open Door meeting laws and their enforcement? IS IT TRUE that the CITY COUNTY OBSERVER strongly supports OPEN DOORS MEETING laws and all government ENTITIES that observe them? IS IT TRUE that the CITY COUNTY OBSERVER will be at the next MAJESTIC PLACE advisory board meeting in support of Channel 14's re-



The Mole



EDITORIAL

MORE IS IT TRUE?

Compiled by Moles Number 1 through 83...and counting

quest to be allowed to cover this important meeting? IS IT TRUE the public has a right to be informed about decisions made by elected officials? IS IT TRUE we congratulate CHANNEL 14 for being a good government “WATCH DOG”?

IT’S THE ECONOMY STUPID!

IS IT TRUE THAT THIS MESSAGE IS FOR OUR TAX AND SPEND POLITICIANS WHO WANT TO CONTINUE TO BUILD PROJECTS, BUY PROPERTY AND GIVE THEM AWAY TO NON-PROFITS GROUPS, TAX AND SPEND US INTO Bankruptcy, USE OUR “RAINY DAY” SURPLUS FUNDS FOR UN-NEEDED PET POLITICAL PROJECTS OR NO INTEREST LOANS WITH NO PERSONAL GUARANTEES? Is it true we say “stop” because this is bad public policy?

THANKS, WNIN AND ELECTED OFFICIALS!

IS IT TRUE we if you can’t attend the CITY COUNCIL or the COUNTY COMMISSIONERS meetings we encourage you

to please watch them on WNIN television station? IS IT TRUE that after you watch these meeting, you might ask yourself, “WHY DID I VOTE FOR HER?” IS IT TRUE that after you watch these meeting, you also might ask yourself, WHY DID I VOTE AGAINST HIM? IS IT TRUE we thank our elected officials for funding the showing of government in action?

IS IT TRUE we still say the appointed city and county BOARDS and COMMISSIONS that need more public scrutiny are AIRPORT AUTHORITY, EVANSVILLE REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, EVANSVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY and WATER AND SEWER BOARD?

THE ANSWER IS YES!

Is it true that the cap and trade bill should be defeated? Is it true the answer is “yes”? Is it true many people would like to see county councilman Mike Goebel run for Mayor of Evansville? Is it true that if he does, he will be hard to beat?

JOSEPH H. HARRISON, JR.

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Community Cinema Series presents Copyright Criminals this Wednesday

What do you think when you hear the opening chords of Kanye West's "Jesus Walks?" P. Diddy's "I'll Be Missing You?" Or Vanilla Ice's campy hit "Ice Ice Baby?"

Whether the notes make you think of the hip-hop songs listed, or of The ARC Choir's "Walk With Me;" The Police's "I'll Be Watching You;" and Queen's "Under Pressure" (respectively), one thing is clear: the idea of "sampling" music has been part of hip-hop's rise to prominence.

The question is, will it be part of the genre's future?

"Copyright Criminals," the second film in the 2009-10 UE/WNIN/Evansville Courier & Press Community Cinema Series, explores that question, tracing the rise of hip-hop from the urban streets of New York to its current status as a multibillion-dollar industry. For more than 30 years,

innovative hip-hop artists have been re-using portions of previously recorded music in new and otherwise original compositions; today, though, record company lawyers are getting involved, and what used to be known as "borrowing a melody" now is becoming known as "copyright infringement." The film will screen at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 21, in the Smythe Lecture Hall (room 170) of UE's Schroeder Family School of Business Administration building.

Attendance is free and open to the public.

"The rise of 'sampling,' and the effect lawyers are having on it now, makes up the storyline for 'Copyright Criminals,' which we're proud to show as part of this year's Community Cinema Series," said Suzanne Hudson Smith, vice president of development for WNIN. "Like all of the films in this series, 'Copyright Criminals' raises interesting questions about the subject at hand – and we're looking forward to discussing those issues with the audience afterward."

"Copyright Criminals" will begin airing at 7 p.m.; at 8 p.m., the discussion will begin, led by local musician Scott Brown, whose own experiences have brought him into contact with the issue of sampling.

"As always, we're excited to see another Community Cinema Series film air on the UE campus, and are grateful to WNIN for sharing this opportunity with us," said Rachel Carpenter, UE's assistant dean of students and director of the Center for Student Engagement. "Not only is this a wonderful educational opportunity for our students, but it's a great opportunity for the entire community to learn about the issues presented in the film, and to be part – along with the panel and others in the audience – of a discussion of those issues."

As with all films in the series, "Copyright Criminals" also will air on PBS about a month after its showing in Evansville.

For more information on the series, please contact UE Director of News Services Joe Atkinson at (812) 488-2562.



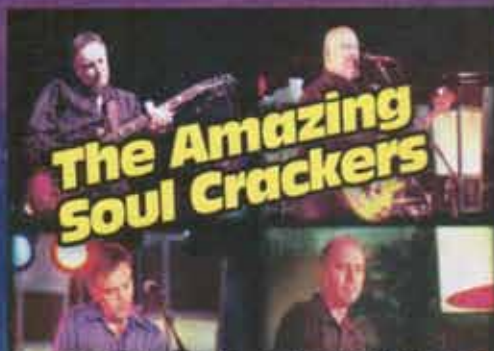
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EVERY TUESDAY

John Gauer, 8pm

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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Hosted by BK, 8pm

EVERY THURSDAY

Bike Night with
John Hussman, 8pm



Wednesday
(October 7) at 8PM



Friday
(October 9) at 8PM



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October Weekend Entertainment

THE AMAZING SOUL CRACKERS
October 2 & 3

PIECES OF THE DAY
October 9

THE AMAZING SOUL CRACKERS
October 10

THE JIMMIES
October 16 & 17

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October 23 & 24

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October 30 & 31

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COVER STORY

McCurdy deal

continued from page 1

tax purposes. The \$800,000 is to be drawn on two separate checks for \$400,000 each.”

No other information was freely given in the minutes. Why would the Redevelopment Commission make the check payable to another company? What tax purposes?

On November 5, 2008, Dan Shaw, of the Evansville Courier & Press, wrote an article about the money. The article stated that city officials (though the Evansville Redevelopment Commission) had approved \$800,000 toward the renovation of the McCurdy as a grant. At this point, a name was placed with City Centre Properties – Steve Scott.

According to our sources, conditions of the grant were vague. In order to receive the money, Scott had to buy the land where the McCurdy is situated and obtain the permanent financing for the renovation. Requests for the resolutions and the exhibits have not been fulfilled.

Shaw’s article, Scott may receive as much as \$960,000 in grants by the time the project is completely finished. The article further explained that Scott will receive \$10,000 for the apartments constructed by City Centre “between the 80th

unit and 96th unit.”

Shaw also states that the city may loan an additional \$72,000 to City Centre Properties LLC that they “can use to pay back money it may borrow.”

This was confirmed in a conversation with Redevelopment Commission President Bob Goldman.

On October 23, 2008, prior to purchasing the McCurdy, Scott filed the “Preliminary Resolution Declaring an ERA for tax phase-in” was filed. This was approved by the Evansville City Council on November 17, 2008, and was signed by Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel on November 18, 2008.

The tax phase-in was requested for nine years. The terms were not listed in City Council Resolution C-2008-34. The meeting minutes from that date reveal that little discussion was held, as the resolution was placed under “Consent Items” on the agenda and the minutes.

According to the Vanderburgh County Assessor’s Office, the property card reveals that City Centre Properties LLC took ownership of the McCurdy on November 21, 2008. This document also shows that the property had a total land value of \$561,600.

According to city documents, the renovation costs of the McCurdy are projected to run in the neighborhood of \$11.2 million. According to the application submitted by City Centre Properties, they will renovate the McCurdy Building into a 90-unit, multi-family apartment building and a mixed use facility. The application, submitted by City Centre Properties, will be developed by Scott-Hilliard-Kosene, which is another Steve Scott-owned Company.

For six months, the City-County Observer has been questioning the status of this project. Questions of the mayor’s office for the progress have been referred to Scott, other than the occasional response of “When renovating a historic building, it takes time to make sure it meets the standards set by the historical society.”

It has taken almost a year for Scott to show interest in this project to the community, so questions are now raised, why is Scott in such a hurry to evict the helpless people living in Riverwalk Communities?

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COMMUNITY

City, Vectren Submit Solar Energy Grant Application

(EVANSVILLE, IN) – The City of Evansville and Vectren Corporation have jointly submitted a grant application to the U.S. Department of Energy to develop the use of solar cells (photovoltaic) to produce clean, renewable energy for the community. The grant funds are being made available to the Department of Energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

“The use of renewable energy sources, such as solar energy, is critical to diversifying our region’s electric generation resources and improving environmental quality in our community. Applying for this grant is in line with my Sustainability Policy and my commitment to reduce the City’s greenhouse gas emissions,” said Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel. “I appreciate Vectren’s commitment to develop clean, renewable energy and their willingness to partner with the City on this project.”

If successful, the project will consist of three key initiatives:

1. Solar panels may be installed on some City or Evansville-Vanderburgh County Building Authority properties.
2. An array of solar cells will be placed in northern Vanderburgh

County, which would supply 1 megawatt of energy directly to the electric grid and the new downtown arena. At least six workers may be needed to operate the solar cell array.

3. A photovoltaic (PV) applied research test lab, visitor center and meteorological station will be constructed at the same location. Fifty jobs may be created during construction.

“If awarded, the project would further boost our region’s growing emphasis on green energy and green jobs and could well position southwestern Indiana to be able to capitalize on additional solar projects, such as attracting a solar PV manufacturer or developing larger solar farms in the area,” added Mayor Weinzapfel.

The project is estimated to cost \$10 million, 50% of which is being pursued through the Department of Energy grant application.

Only four projects are expected to be funded nationwide. The Department of Energy anticipates notifying recipients in January 2010 with funding being distributed by February 2010. This project is also dependent on approval from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission and City Council.



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SPORTS

UE Men Place Sixth At Dayton

KETTERING, Ohio -- Four University of Evansville golfers broke 80 again today to give the Purple Aces a sixth place finish out of 17 teams in the men's division of the University of Dayton Invitational at NCR Country Club South.

First round tournament leader Michael Sainz of Evansville finished as the Aces' low man for the tournament with a 36-hole score of 151, good for a 16th place tie. Griffin Wood (75), Andrew Luo (76), Neal Millay (77) and Christian Poling (79) kept UE in the top six today as Evansville finished with a team score of 611. Ball State won the tournament, coming from seven strokes down after the first round to win by five strokes. Justin Lower of Malone University earned medalist honors with rounds of 73 and 69 for even-par 142.

Tuesday's round was the final one of the fall season for

the Aces, who return to tournament action in February.

DAYTON INVITATIONAL TEAM SCORES:

1. Ball State 596; 2. Toledo 601; 3. Bowling Green 604; 4. Malone 606; 5. Ohio U. 608; T6. Evansville, IPFW 611; T8. Youngstown State, Wright State 614; 10. Butler 619; 11. Southern Illinois 624; 12. Duquesne 626; 13. Dayton 632; 14. Robert Morris 647; 15. Valparaiso 660; 16. IUPUI 663; 17. Chicago State 708.

EVANSVILLE SCORES:

T16. Michael Sainz 69-82=151; T29. Neal Millay 77-77=154; T37. Andrew Luo 79-76=155; T53. Griffin Wood 83-75=158; T53. Christian Poling 79-79=158; *T65. Ricardo Paredes 82-78=160; *T73. Tim Simmons 81-80=161.

*played as individual

Medalist: Justin Lower, Malone, 73-69=142

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Johnson Finishes 4th Out Of 53

KETTERING, Ohio -- Two straight sub-80 rounds produced a fourth place finish in a field of 53 players today for University of Evansville junior Emily Johnson at the Dayton Invitational.

Johnson followed Monday's 78 with a 79 Tuesday afternoon at NCR Country Club North to finish the 36-hole tournament at 157. She was just three strokes behind medalist Kate Moore of Cincinnati. UE sophomore Lauren Ellerman also broke into the top 10, finishing ninth at 160, and junior Maggie Wood was right behind in 13th place at 161. Those three led Evansville to its best team finish of the fall, a tie for fourth out of 10 teams with a team score of 652. Cincinnati was team champion at 624.

Tuesday's round was the final one of the fall season for coach Jim Hamilton's squad. The Aces re-



Emily Johnson finished fourth out of 53 yesterday in the Dayton Invitational.

sume play in February, and the spring season will culminate with Evansville hosting the State Farm Missouri Valley Conference Women's Golf Championship at Rolling Hills Country Club in Newburgh, April 18-20.

DAYTON INVITATIONAL TEAM SCORES:

1. Cincinnati 624; T2. Bowling Green, Detroit Mercy 645; T4. Evansville, Dayton, Ohio U. 652; 7. Chicago State 668; 8. IUPUI 672; 9. Dayton 678; 10. Valparaiso 771.

EVANSVILLE SCORES:

4. Emily Johnson 78-79=157; T9. Lauren Ellerman 82-78=160; T13. Maggie Wood 79-82=161; T42. Alyssa Key 88-86=174; 51. Morgan Anderson 101-98=199.

Medalist: Kate Moore, Cincinnati, 77-77=154

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SPORTS

Women's soccer hopes to lock-up tournament spot

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — The University of Southern Indiana women's soccer team hopes to lock-up a GLVC Tournament slot this week on the road when it travels to Kentucky Wesleyan College and Bellarmine University. USI is scheduled to play at KWC Friday at 2:30 p.m. and finish the season at Bellarmine Sunday at 11 a.m.

The Screaming Eagles are currently tied seventh in the GLVC with Rockhurst University and one-and-a-half games ahead of Missouri University of Science and Technology. USI can clinch a spot in the league tournament with a win and a loss by Missouri S&T; or a pair of Eagle wins.

USI could rise as high as sixth with a pair of wins and a pair of losses by the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. The GLVC Tournament is scheduled to start on November 1 with the semifinals on November 6 and the finals on November 8.

The Eagles (8-7-2, 6-5-1 GLVC) started the season-ending road trip with a pair of victories last weekend, defeating the University of Missouri-St. Louis, 1-0, and Urbana University, 2-0.

USI freshman forward Susan Ellsperman leads the Eagles in scoring with 17 points on seven goals and three assists. The 17 points rank ninth in the GLVC, while her seven goals are tied for fourth.

Sophomore forward Meagan Kempf follows Ellsperman in the scoring column with 14 points on four goals and a team-best six assists. The six assists are tied for sixth in the GLVC.

The Panthers of KWC (7-9-1, 4-9-0 GLVC) were 1-1 last week and broke a four-match losing streak with a 2-1 win over Maryville University. USI is 11-0-0 against



KWC in the all-time series and won last year's match-up, 3-1, at Strassweg Field.

The Knights of Bellarmine (11-2-0, 9-2-0 GLVC) are in second place in the GLVC by percentage points over Quincy University and a game ahead of fourth-place Drury University. Bellarmine has won its last three matches and eight of its last nine.

USI trails Bellarmine in the all-time series, 7-6-0, and have lost the last three to the Knights. The Eagles lost a heartbreaker in Louisville, Kentucky, last year in double overtime, 2-1.

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SPORTS

Lady Eagles Volleyball sweeps Oakland City

OAKLAND CITY, Ind.—The University of Southern Indiana volleyball team got a combined 32 kills and a .492 attacking percentage from junior outside hitter Brittani Oliver, senior outside hitter Courtney Bealor, and sophomore middle blocker Danielle LaGrange as it defeated Oakland City University 25-22, 25-22, 25-10 Tuesday night at the Johnson Center.

USI (12-12) had to rally from early deficits to edge the Oaks (10-9) in the first two sets, then used a blistering .640 attacking percentage in the third game to blow past host Oakland City and finish the match in straight sets.

Oliver finished the match with 11 kills and a .588 attacking percentage, most of which came in the first two frames, while Bealor added 11 kills and a .409 attacking percentage. LaGrange chipped in 10 kills and attacked at a .450 pace as the Screaming Eagles hit .337 as a team.

Senior setter Melanie Pund racked up 35 assists and nine digs, while Bealor added 11 digs. Sophomore libero Krista Cocco had a match-high 14 digs, while sophomore defensive specialist Stephanie Berg added 10 digs.

USI returns to action Friday when it visits three-time defending GLVC champion and 13th-ranked Lewis University. The rematch of last season's conference championship match is slated for 7 p.m. in Romeoville, Illinois.



Brittani Oliver had 11 kills and a .588 attacking percentage as the Eagles swept Oakland City Tuesday night.

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EDUCATION

Children ages 6 to 14 can participate in Saturday Art Workshop

Children age 6 to 14 have the opportunity to express their creativity and work with USI art students and faculty during the Saturday Art Workshop. The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on two Saturdays, October 31 and November 7, in the USI Technology Center.

Students will create two- and three-dimensional artwork including collages, paintings, printmaking, ceramics, sculptures, and more. USI elementary education and art education students are responsible for workshop instruction, with direct supervi-

sion by art education faculty.

The children will be grouped by age with a maximum of 20 per group and will display their works at the end of each session. The registration fee of \$30 includes lunch and all supplies.

The Saturday Art Workshop is coordinated by Dr. Joseph Uduehi, coordinator of the art workshops and associate professor of art education. To register, call USI Extended Services

at 812/464-1989 or 800/467-8600.

If you have questions about the workshop, call Uduehi at 812/465-1068.



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September 2009 Indiana Employment Report

INDIANAPOLIS (October 21, 2009) - Indiana's preliminary seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate dropped 0.3 percent in September to 9.6 percent the Indiana Department of Workforce Development reported today.

Indiana's unemployment rate has dropped 1.1 percent over the previous three months and is now lower than the national unemployment rate for the first time since October 2008. The national unemployment rate rose in September 0.1 percent to 9.8 percent.

"Indiana is bucking the national trend with three straight months of declining unemployment," said Teresa Voors, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. "We are encouraged by increases in manufacturing and professional and business service jobs. It's

still too early to say we have turned the corner, but Indiana's economy is definitely trending in the right direction."

Total non-farm employment in Indiana grew by 4,400 jobs in September. Revised August employment figures also showed an increase in total non-farm employment. This marks the first back-to-back monthly employment gains in Indiana since October/November 2007. In September, Indiana's manufacturing sector added 3,000 positions from August. Professional and business service sectors added 2,900 jobs. Indiana did record a decline in construction of 3,300 positions, which could signal a premature end to seasonal construction season.

Indiana has the lowest unemployment rate of its neighboring states. Illinois increased 0.5 percent to 10.5 percent. Ohio's unemployment rate decreased 0.7 percent to 10.1 percent. Kentucky decreased 0.3 percent to 10.9 percent. Michigan increased 0.1 percent to 15.3 percent.

Indiana's unemployment rate stood at 6.1 percent in September 2008.

EDITORS NOTE: the October 2009 Employment Report will be released on November 20, 2009.



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— THE CITY-COUNTY OBSERVER —

COMMUNITY

Make a Difference Day planned for October 24

In coordination with Make a Difference Day, a day dedicated to helping others, the USI Service Learning Program has organized volunteer opportunities to serve the Evansville community. USI students, employees, and the public are encouraged to participate in these activities on Saturday, October 24.

"The Service Learning Program is hoping to make this day a tradition of service throughout the academic year," said Dr. Anne Statham, director of Service Learning. "We offer a variety of opportunities and ways for students to get involved."

Activities for Make a Difference Day are:

Park Cleanup with City Park Department

Time: 9 a.m. to noon

Location: Garvin Park

Volunteers are needed to do basic maintenance work including trail cleanup, landscaping, and trash and cigarette butt pickup. Volunteers are asked to bring gloves and trash bags.

Walk Up Activities on Health

Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Koch Family Children's Museum of Evansville

Volunteers will help develop children's health activities and create stations for children on health-related issues.

Lampion Center Workshop on Child Sexual Assault

Time: 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Location: USI, Forum III in the Wright Administration Building

The Lampion Center will offer a children's sexual abuse prevention training program. Participants will receive information on how to help prevent sexual abuse of children.

Wesselman Nature Center's Harvest Festival

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Wesselman Nature Center

Volunteers will help with set up and take down, collect tickets, and work at the concession booth. The event promotes family togetherness while raising funds for the Wesselman Nature Center.

Future service opportunities are being planned for January and April of 2010.

For more information, or to sign up for an event, contact Service Learning at servicelearning@usi.edu or 812/465-1203.

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SUBJECT	GRADE
Homestead Tax Credit	F
Return of the '09 Homestead Credit	F
First Amendment Rights	F
Return of Signs to the Civic Center	F
Trash Contract to Public Bid	F
Trash Containers Postponed	F
Withdrawal of Westside Annexation	F
'No Confidence' Petition Signatures	F
No Secret Meetings	F
Public Accountability, Transparency	F

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Office	1,500	1,250	Retail	1,500	938	Warehouse	4,200	1,750
Office	3,000	2,500	Retail	3,000	1,876	Warehouse	5,700	2,375
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CONTACT INFORMATION:

Contact: Frank Peterlin (o)(812)425-1906 Ext.1103 (f)(812)425-2585 PeterlinVI@AOL.COM

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LOCAL POLITICS

MCNAMARA NAMED TO RICHARD G. LUGAR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE SERIES 20TH CLASS

INDIANAPOLIS - The Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series announced today that Wendy McNamara has been selected as a member of the 2009-10 class. As a participant in this national leadership program, McNamara will receive specialized training for preparation to serve in key governmental and political positions.

At the announcement of the new class, Senator Lugar restated his commitment to the program's goals of identifying and encouraging outstanding Hoosier women to enter public life.

"McNamara and the other nineteen women who have been selected to participate in the program are extraordinary in their dedication to their communities. I am confident that Wendy will accept new and important roles in public service. The women who have graduated from the series are enriching our public policy discussions and enhancing the quality of life in our state and our nation," Lugar said.

McNamara is the Director of Early College High School for the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation, candidate for state representative House District 76, and the coordinator

of the 8th District We the People: Citizen and the Constitution Program. She received a degree in Political Science from the University of Indianapolis and a Masters in Education and in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern Indiana. McNamara said, "She is extremely honored to be chosen for this distinguished leadership series."

Applicants to the series were evaluated on the basis of written and oral presentations. Chosen from a field of statewide applicants, these women represent diverse backgrounds and interests, while sharing a commitment to public service in an appointed or elected capacity. More than 1,300 women from across the nation have been trained for public service through this program, which was started in Indiana in 1990. The Excellence in Public Service Series has been replicated in 19 states due to the leadership of Judy Singleton, co-founder of the Excellence program.

The Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series is a not-for-profit organization funded and operated by the voluntary contributions of individuals and organizations committed to increasing the leadership of women in politics and government.

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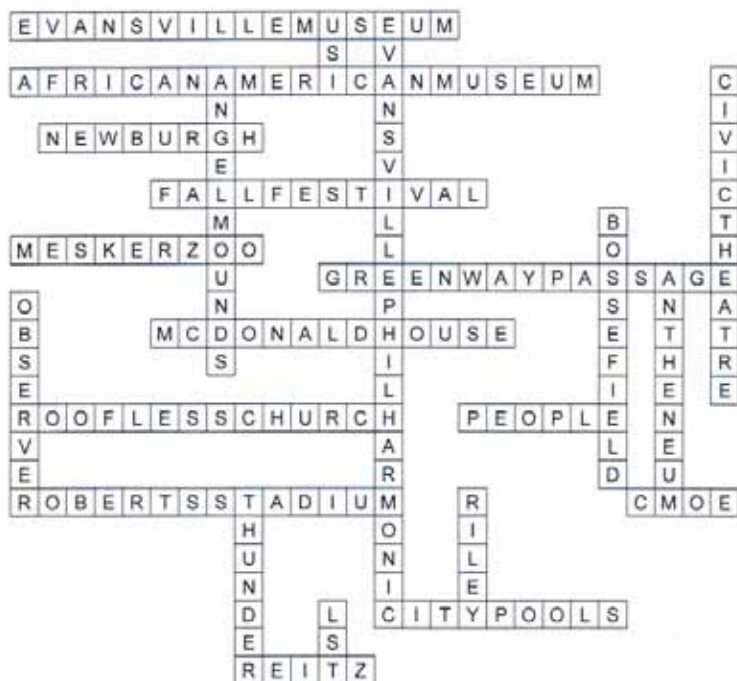
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