



Business Expansion & New Investment Report

An engineering firm is moving into space that formerly featured trendy aluminum light fixtures, copper bowl sinks, bamboo floors and snazzy furnishings. Actually, **Christopher B. Burke Engineering of South Bend** is just one of six businesses that recently signed leases at **Colfax Place** – a downtown building that not so long ago tested the waters for urban residential condos. The 88-year-old building, located near the intersection of Lafayette Boulevard and Colfax Avenue, has returned to its roots in the office market and is once again finding success, said John Phair, president of owner **Holladay Properties**, South Bend. With a handful of new or expanding tenants signing on, Phair said the 28,363-square-foot building is now 75 percent leased. Burke Engineering is moving onto the 5th floor, which had been converted to model condos in the fall of 2006. Holladay invested more than \$500,000 to construct the condos and make other improvements. “We hated to throw in the towel on the condo idea,” Phair said. “We thought downtown was ready for it, and we guessed wrong. Now we have other discussions going on for the balance of the space. The market isn’t super strong downtown, but it does have some life.” *SBT 1/05/10*

Some of the very things that make **University Center** unappealing to shoppers – a neglected appearance and numerous vacant storefronts, enticed a Denver-based investment team to buy it. **Baceline Investments** on Friday completed the purchase of the former Kroger-based shopping center located behind University Park Mall. The company also bought **Western Avenue Plaza** earlier this month. Shoppers should notice cosmetic improvements first, followed by as many as 10 to 15 new tenants eventually moving into University Center. At the moment, the 25-year-old University Center located north of Hickory Road only contains 10 retail, restaurant and office tenants. But it’s located on a high-traffic, high-visibility route taken daily by many area residents, **David Puchi** says. Western Avenue Plaza is less of a leasing project for Baceline, says Puchi, a company principal in town last week to finalize the confidential deals. Both Martin’s and CVS pharmacy have long-term leases at the plaza. Puchi, however, anticipates knocking down a former restaurant building that has been vacant for some time. Leasing at University Commons will take time. “We like the fact that it looks terrible and had rotten ownership,” says Puchi. “The first time we drove up to University Center, we saw the vision,” says **Chris Murdy**, a ’93 Notre Dame graduate partnering with Baceline on the projects. “This year we’ll stop the negative inertia and get the word out that the center is under new ownership.” Puchi added, “Three years from now,” he continues, “we see University Commons 85 percent leased with a handful of attractive tenants that appeal to people who use (Indiana) 23 on their way to and from work, or to avoid congestion on Grape Road.” *SBT 1/17/10*

The **City of South Bend** will pump nearly \$41.4 million worth of economic-development and infrastructure investment into the local economy in 2010 as a result of the growth in its eight tax increment financing districts. The tax revenue, resulting from the growth in business activity, will allow for key economic investments, such as support of

commercialization efforts growing out of the Midwest Institute for Nanoelectronics Discovery, or MIND, and for the development of Ignition Park, part of the City’s two-site state-certified technology park. It will enable the city to expand the **Metronet**, extend Commerce Drive, install a trunk sewer along Mayflower Road, or to acquire property and demolish outdated structures, making way for new private investment in places like Ignition Park and LaSalle Square. TIF supplements city capital investment, allowing for possible renovations at Coveleski Stadium and adaptive re-use of the College Football Hall of Fame facility. And it will provide a pool of resources for economic-development staff to work with private developers, whether in potential new office buildings or condominiums downtown or with the University of Notre Dame’s renovation of the Hansel Center into a Center for Latino Culture. These efforts and other projects are tentatively identified for action in 2010, according to a strategy presented to the South Bend Redevelopment Commission. The Commission reviewed today approved TIF allocation amounts for each of the TIF districts, based on anticipated TIF proceeds for 2009 and cash balances from previous years. “Tax increment financing revenue is the primary tool in the City’s economic-development engine,” said **Jeff Gibney**, executive director of the Department of Community and Economic Development. “Today, we are outlining our strategy for 2010 so the Redevelopment Commission can have a sense of our priorities for financial investment and work in the coming months.” *IB 1/17/10*

In an attempt to lessen its environmental footprint and lower its operational costs, **J. Patrick McGann**, president, said **McGann Hay** is planning a new \$2 million funeral home on the east side of South Bend that he hopes will be LEED certified. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System examines performance in five key areas: site sustainability, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. Not only does the facility itself intend to be “green,” but McGann Hay also offers green burials. Green burials use wood or other biodegradable caskets and require that embalming be done with environmentally safe chemicals. The new facility will also include three viewing/service rooms, a fully equipped kitchen and a video system to broadcast funeral ceremonies for family members and friends unable to attend the services. Weddings, receptions, fraternal and neighborhood meetings will also be held at the new McGann Hay facility. No location has been announced. Construction is set to begin within the next 18 months. “We just decided to do this in October, and looking at our position in the market and evaluating our facilities and possible expansions in the future, we decided this would be our next step in the industry locally,” McGann said. The new central location will also serve as the firm’s General Offices and will employ up to nine people, according to a statement released in October. *SBT 1/19/10*

Press Ganey Associates, Inc. today announced the addition of **Philip Marshall**, MD, MPH, as senior vice president, clinical products. Dr. Marshall joins the company at a time of continued growth and will be responsible for expanding the clinical product lines for the company. “We look forward to

the substantial contributions Dr. Marshall will make to Press Ganey,” said Richard Siegrist, Press Ganey president and CEO. “His experience and innovation in the health care industry will be a great asset to the company as we are poised to grow our services and capabilities throughout the coming years.” Dr. Marshall’s most recent position was with WebMD Health where he was the vice president of product strategy. *IB 1/21/10*

Samara Gold describes her husband, **Shaya**, as a dynamic and motivated man. He dreams big, acts quickly, and does everything he can to get something right the first time. He may have done just that with his new South Bend grocery store and deli, which targets a distinct local market segment that the Golds believe has been underserved for years. Last weekend, the couple opened **Gold’s Kosher Market & Deli**, 908 E. Ireland Road, next to Peddler’s Pub at Ireland Village shopping center. The store carries everything from dairy to meats, fresh and frozen foods, pasta, baking goods, condiments, canned items, juice, snacks and Israeli candy. The 1,600-square-foot space contains more than 3,000 different products in freezer and refrigerator cases and shelving units. One such unit near the register remains empty for kosher wines and top shelf liquors if the Golds receive their liquor license. *SBT 1/22/10*

1st Source Corporation, parent company of **1st Source Bank**, today announced fourth quarter net income of \$6.22 million, compared to \$12.32 million in the fourth quarter of 2008. For the year, net income was \$25.49 million versus \$33.39 million reported in 2008. The previous year’s fourth quarter and annual net income results were positively impacted by the sale of certain assets of 1st Source Corporation Investment Advisors to Wasatch Advisors, Inc. which resulted in an \$11.49 million pre-tax (after-tax \$7.14 million) gain. Diluted net income per common share for the fourth quarter of 2009 was \$0.19 compared to the \$0.50 per common share reported in the fourth quarter of 2008. Diluted net income per common share for 2009 was \$0.79 versus the \$1.37 per common share for 2008. Diluted net income per common share was reduced by \$0.07 for the fourth quarter of 2009 and \$0.26 for the year ending December 31, 2009, due to the preferred stock dividends and the accretion of the discount on the preferred stock issued to the U.S. Government under the TARP Program. The preferred stock was issued in January 2009 and therefore did not impact the three or twelve month periods ending December 31, 2008. At the January 2010 meeting, the Board of Directors approved a fourth quarter cash dividend of \$0.15 per common share, up 7.14 percent over the dividend declared in the same period a year earlier. *IB 1/22/10*

Julio De La Cruz and his family quietly opened a new downtown South Bend restaurant his last week. His relatives wanted to duplicate a proven concept, **La Esperanza**. After all, they know it like the back of their hand, having operated the Mexican-themed restaurant located on North Ironwood Drive for 15 years. And they have a loyal customer base. “But I wanted this,” De La Cruz says, walking down a line of tables

covered with linen and glass. "I wanted to step it up." And step it up he has. **Sangrias Wine Bar**, located at 123 N. Michigan St., sets itself apart from the restaurants up and down the street by offering cuisine with a Latin flair. By the end of the month, they hope to have wine to boot after securing approval of a liquor license. De La Cruz proudly shows off dishes like salmon en chipotle, which the cook has given an upscale look with chipotle sauce drizzled over the entire plate, and taco yucateco, a shrimp and tilapia taco topped with Mexican pico de gallo. "Going out to eat should be seen as an event. I personally like to eat. When you have a great meal, you feel happy," De La Cruz says. The kitchen, as it turns out, is twice the size of La Esperanza, which will allow his family the chance to expand catering services. In the spring, look for patio seating outside Sangrias. In time, they also hope to take their signature sauces and chips and salsa into area grocery stores. *SBT 1/24/10*

Two local artists have given another boost to the downtown art community by opening a new gallery. **Jake Webster** and **Kay Westhues** opened **Artpost** at 216 W. Madison St., late last year. The gallery, housed in an older home, specializes in contemporary art, folk art, photographs, crafts, art books and even performance art. Westhues and Webster plan to feature the work of local and regional artists as well as their own work. Webster is a sculptor, mixed media artist and spoken word performer. Westhues is a photographer who takes a keen interest in rural settings. Webster said Artpost will bring cutting-edge exhibits to the community. "South Bend is a perfect place for artistic production — a great space, amazing people with knowledge about techniques and materials and an open-minded spirit," Webster said. "To be part of this place is exciting." Artpost is located next to South Bend Civic Theater. *SBT 1/25/10*

Four start-up businesses have moved into **Innovation Park**, which is located just south of the **University of Notre Dame** campus. **Jay Brockman**, a computer science and engineering professor at Notre Dame and co-founder of **Emu Solutions**, said nearness to the campus played a major role in the decision to move into Innovation Park. "The biggest asset is the proximity to Notre Dame, and one of the things we hope to do as Emu grows is find other faculty members and other researchers who have ideas for products and innovations that can work together with ours," Brockman said. Emu — or Enhanced Memory Utilization — is developing computer hardware and software techniques that will eliminate bottlenecks that clog the flow of data between processors and memory, according to Brockman. "We are very excited," said **David Brenner**, president of Innovation Park. "These four companies represent some very exciting and innovative ideas." The other three firms are: **Altasure**, a firm with headquarters in Tomahawk, Wis., production facilities in Elkhart and sales operations in Indianapolis. Altasure's president is Carl Ricciardi. Altasure has developed a technology to disinfect and sterilize equipment and large spaces. Brenner said the technology can be used by hospitals to ensure that operating rooms have been disinfected and sterilized after surgery. **Graham Allen Partners** is a private holding company that will make investments in businesses that move into its offices at Innovation Park. Tracy Graham, a Notre Dame graduate, founded and manages the company. **Landon Spitalnik**, who is an MBA candidate at Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business, is the co-founder of **Unlimited Juice**. Brenner said the company is developing a device that uses solar power sources to charge the batteries of hand-held devices. Unlimited Juice will be housed in Innovation Park's Greenhouse, Brenner said. The Greenhouse is a space developed to foster innovation for early venture stage development. Brenner said each of the firms are pursuing cutting-edge technologies in diverse areas. Emu's innovations will allow institutions that must move large amounts of data in short periods of time

to be able to do so. Altasure's sterilization technology can make everything from operating rooms to food processing plants safer. Unlimited Juice's innovation will greatly increase the battery life of hand-held devices in an environmentally friendly way while Graham Allen Partners will use its expertise to help fledgling companies become well run and successful. *SBT 1/27/10*

PCDirect, an online store has been operating and growing at www.pcdirect.com. Until now, that is. 3B Tech remains the distribution arm of the business, but **Johnny Zhu** and **Nickolas Doty** are now focused on developing the physical PCDirect retail model, brand and technology superstore. PCDirect recently opened at 3430 Grape Road, in the former Advance Auto Parts building in Mishawaka. It's a concept they hope to take nationwide in other second- and third-tier markets. The 12,000-square-foot showroom offers recertified overstock, as well as refurbished and new computer products. Refurbished computer items make up about 15 percent of the store's inventory. PCDirect carries such computer brands as Dell, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Lenovo and Toshiba, and component brands including Gigabyte, Asus, Logitech, Microsoft and Intel. "We carry every part onsite to repair and build computers. PCDirect has about 50 employees between its South Bend warehouse on William Richardson Drive and its Mishawaka store. *SBT 1/29/10*

U.S. Air Ambulance, a Florida-based company specializing in disaster planning for hospitals, is considering **South Bend** as a location for its new headquarters, but would like some help from the county. The company has proposed partnering with the county to buy or lease the former Citigroup credit-card processing center on Crescent Circle in the Blackthorn development area, a 92,000-square-foot facility vacant since 2008. USAA's mission requires access to an advanced emergency communications system, which the county would provide by locating its planned Emergency Communications Center, or ECC, at the facility. It also needs the county's cooperation to apply for state and federal grants to cover facility and operations costs. In addition to solving the problem of where to locate the ECC, the joint venture would also create dozens of new jobs in the community, according to its supporters. "They plan to hire 35 to 50 people initially, and, eventually, up to 100," said Thomas Panzica, executive vice president of Panzica, the owner/developer of the property. "And these would be well-paying jobs. They estimate their payroll would eventually be \$5 million." Said commissioner Andrew Kostielney: "It's all going to come down to whether we can make the numbers work." The estimated initial cost for the project is about \$13 million to \$15 million. That includes the purchase of the building, currently listed at \$5.8 million, as well as necessary communications equipment. Carothers said USAA thinks that, with the county as a partner, it can secure as much as \$5 million initially in grant money. "By us co-locating with the county," he said, "I believe that puts a national footprint on competitive grant money that will put us on the top of the list." Whatever happens, state law requires the county reduce its emergency dispatch centers to no more than two by 2014. It currently operates five. *SBT 1/29/10*

The **Morris Performing Arts Center** has been named **2009 Prime Site Award Winner** by Facilities Magazine. The Morris has received the award for four consecutive years. Prime Site Awards are voted on by more than 10,000 people in the entertainment industry directly involved with site selection, booking agents, promoters, talent buyers and special event planners. *SBT 2/07/10*

Leo Premier Jr. has opened an office of **Edward Jones** at 227 S. Main St., Suite 101. Edward Jones provides financial services for individual investors. Every aspect of the firm's

business, from the types of investment options offered to the location of branch offices, is designed to cater to individual investors in the communities in which they live and work. *SBT 2/07/10*

A dramatic increase in the amount and variety of housing along the St. Joseph River in Mishawaka in the last 15 years has reclaimed brownfields and transformed the city into a residential as well as retail destination. **Bob Stephens' Prime Development Corp.** has more than 200 acres with potential for more than 600 homes in the stretch from the Townes at Kamm Island to Capital Avenue — 2.6 miles as the crow flies, 3.4 miles of meandering riverfront. With prices starting in the \$100,000s and going up to \$500,000 or more, with an intergenerational mix of villas and conventional homes in some sections, with front porches, back garages and walking-distance retail, Stephens is waking up the echoes of old-time Mishawaka where he grew up. "There really is something neat going on here," he says, touting BusinessWeek's ranking of Mishawaka as the second-best place to live in Indiana. "There's multiple opportunities for living," from starter homes to luxury to retirement. *TBW 02/08/10*

Junk Evolution, located at 528 E. Colfax Ave., South Bend, opened Friday and Saturday to introduce the concept of repurposed goods to area shoppers. After this sneak peek, Junk Evolution closed so the store can be repainted and more items stocked in time for its official opening slated for March 5. **Char Osborn Swoveland** owns the store with **Linda** and **Bernie Sherck** of Bristol. The three met at and became friends through an area RV company, where they worked in design. And within a year of one another, all three lost their jobs. "So we're determined to make this work, even in this economic climate," says Linda Sherck. Junk Evolution also will carry products made by another junk guru, Gary White, who owns Carpenter Gothic. His wife is Kathy Reddy White of Circa Arts Gallery, which is located next door to Junk Evolution. "This is a dream come true. I always wanted to have a shop," says Osborn Swoveland, who also makes some colorful nontraditional Amish underwear, which will be sold in the store. *SBT 2/14/10*

Fred's Transmission & Clutch will open a new location at 14911 Indiana 23, Granger. The business is constructing a 2,500-square-foot addition onto the back of the former sales building of a car lot. *SBT 2/16/10*

Taco Bell is planning to tear down its restaurant at 536 W. McKinley Ave., Mishawaka, and construct a brand new building in its place. *SBT 2/16/10*

Despite coming off its worst year economically since Studebaker closed in 1964, **South Bend** is well-positioned to grow high-paying tech jobs for the future, the mayor said Monday night in his annual State of the City address. "The great recession has driven home the point that the world's economy is changing," South Bend Democratic **Mayor Stephen Luecke** told an audience of mostly city employees at the Century Center. "Many lost jobs will not be coming back, but they can be replaced by new investment powered by research and innovation." As he has many times before, Luecke spoke of the high hopes his administration holds for Ignition Park and Innovation Park. But Luecke did break some news in his roughly hourlong speech. Transpo, the local bus service, is seeking federal grants to develop a fixed-rail streetcar route that would connect the two tech parks and link the university with downtown, he said. Another new initiative that Luecke said excites him is Google's plan, announced last week, to build an ultra-high speed broadband network in one or more trial cities. *SBT 2/16/10*

Mayor Jeff Rea used his annual State of the City speech

Monday night to brag about **Mishawaka**. He pointed out proudly that in 2009 Mishawaka was ranked the second best city in the state to raise children by BusinessWeek. He listed reasons such as how well the city's infrastructure is maintained, efforts to keep aging neighborhoods vital, access to 13 institutions of higher learning and two area hospitals. Rea said Mishawaka is affordable with a cost of living that is 27 percent lower than the national average. The mayor said even though Mishawaka's economy is more stable than other areas in the region, "we are still very much dependent on manufacturing and the national economy." He said the city needs to work to promote technology-based business that will hopefully start in the area as a result of the University of Notre Dame's investment in the area. Rea also talked about shopping, cultural opportunities and parks and recreation. And the mayor said he truly believes the city has positioned itself to survive the tough economic times that keep getting hurled at it. *SBT 2/16/10*

Nyloncraft has been named the **Mishawaka Business Association** Business of the Year and **Bob Stephens** has been named the Person of the Year. The awards were presented at the organization's Thursday night dinner. Nyloncraft is an injection molder in the plastics business, according to an MBA news release. The company was founded in Mishawaka in 1956 by James V. Wyllie. Nyloncraft has about 260 workers in Mishawaka and an additional 90 at a plant in Jonesville, Mich. The workers are represented by Teamsters Local 364. The company and union have worked with community activities including United Way, March of Dimes Walk America and the Mishawaka Grand Prix. Stephens is the president and CEO of Prime Development Corp. He is the developer of the Barrington Estates, Estates East at Barrington and Highland Village subdivision and the Townes at Kamm Island Park condominiums. Stephens also heads Ironworks of Mishawaka, the company that is developing the old Uniroyal property south of the St. Joseph River in downtown Mishawaka. Ironworks built the commercial building adjacent to Beutter Park but has not found any tenants for it since the restaurateur who had planned to occupy the first floor withdrew. Stephens said he was honored to be part of Mishawaka, which was named the second-best place in Indiana to raise a family by BusinessWeek. "We've got something very, very special going on here," he said. "I'm thankful to be part of it." *SBT 2/23/10*

The **University of Notre Dame** says it is building on its history of wireless communication by establishing a **wireless institute**. The institution says 12 faculty and more than 35 graduate students and post-doctoral researchers will be part of the institute, which will have \$2 million in annual research funding. Notre Dame says the first successful wireless transmission in the U.S. was sent from its campus to St. Mary's College in 1899. *IB 2/26/10*

South Bend Water Works is planning to spend more than a million dollars in the next couple of years to update technology. Slowly, for the last decade, the Water Works has been replacing old water meters in people's homes with new ones that emit a wireless signal. The signal allows meter readers to pick up water-usage readings on a laptop in a car, so they no longer have to go house to house on foot to take individual readings. The efficiency of wireless allows a meter reader to do in one second what it used to take about an hour to do. It also enhances safety for meter readers who encounter dogs, bees and a variety of weather challenges in doing their jobs. *WSBT 2/28/10*

Kite Realty Group is continuing negotiations as well as discussions with a number of national and locally owned retail and restaurant companies about the search for tenants at **Eddy Street Common** "Activity is good," says Andrew Has-

brook, senior leasing representative for Kite Realty Group, Indianapolis. At the same time that discussions with prospects are going on, a handful of businesses have started preparing their spaces for spring and summer openings, joining those already open at the development. **Kildare's Irish Pub**, **Nicholas J. Salon & Spa**, **AT&T** and **Old National Bank** are now completing their buildouts. **The Mark**, a restaurant owned by **Jonathan Lutz**, should be under construction soon, beside Hot Box Pizza. AT&T is projecting a March 27 opening, while Old National plans to open by the end of March. Nicholas J. Salon & Spa hopes to open May 1, while Kildare's Irish Pub will open this summer. The latest plans posted online include **Cheryl & Co.** cookies and desserts and **Fannie May chocolates** as incoming tenants who will share a space beside Kildare's at the corner of Eddy and Angela Boulevard. *SBT 2/28/10*

State lawmakers arrived at a tentative agreement Tuesday to allow an intersection for a new road at **Capital Avenue** across from Exit 83 of the **Indiana Toll Road**. The accord could pave the way for development on nearly 300 acres of land west of Capital Avenue and north of the Toll Road. It could also bring resolution to a lawsuit Memorial Health System and the city of Mishawaka filed against the state over a law approved last year to prevent the new intersection where Memorial owns 23 acres. *SBT 3/03/10*

In further efforts to repair and rehabilitate outdated structures on the **Indiana Toll Road**, **ITR Concession Co.** (ITRCC) has committed to a 10-year Bridge Capital Improvement Plan that will improve a number of bridges and structures on the Toll Road. The bridges/structures have been identified, and those will be re-painted, repaired and rehabilitated according to the schedule below. This more-than-\$10 million project continues to fulfill ITRCC's goal of creating the smoothest, most efficient travel experience for drivers on the **ITR**. *IB 3/9/10*

The **University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business** jumped to the top spot on Bloomberg BusinessWeek's fifth annual ranking of "The Best Undergraduate Business Schools." Notre Dame also earned the No. 1 spot in the student ranking, and "A+" in teaching quality, facilities and services and job placement. The school placed first in the recruiter ranking across a three-year average. Notre Dame was ranked No. 2 in 2009. Finishing in the second through fifth places in the 2010 ranking are, in order, University of Virginia, MIT, Wharton and Cornell. *SBT 3/9/10*

Close to 40 percent of the properties offered in the **commissioners' tax sale** sold Monday, netting **St. Joseph County** more than \$2 million. According to county **Treasurer Sean Coleman**, the county received winning bids on 1,136 of nearly 2,750 properties, with bid amounts totaling \$2,002,467.71. "I think we're all very pleased with the number of bidders and the amount offered," Coleman said Tuesday, explaining tax sales typically attract few buyers. "I'm elated," county Commissioner Dave Thomas said. "... Not only do we have that money coming in, but these properties are back on the tax rolls." *SBT 3/10/10*

St. Joseph County Council members on Tuesday approved a property tax abatement for **Molded Acoustical Products of Easton Inc.** The company, which manufactures insulation materials for the automotive industry, is relocating from **Elkhart** to **Granger** and requested the abatement to offset the cost of new manufacturing equipment. The abatement period is five years and it applies to presses and trimming machines totaling about \$1.125 million. "I'm very happy," plant manager **Robert Snyder** said after Tuesday's meeting. "Fortunately for us we are able to stay somewhat local. We're just moving from Elkhart to Granger." The company is relo-

cating because it needs to expand and its plant in Elkhart is landlocked. It has benefited from the collapse of several key competitors during the recent automotive slump. In granting the abatement, council members took into account that the company, which currently employs about 190 people, plans to hire an additional 20 over the next two years. **Project Future** assisted the company as it moved through the steps of applying for the tax phase-in. *SBT 3/10/10*

Taking a ride on the information superhighway sometimes means ending up in a traffic jam. But **Google** wants to do something about that. The company has announced it is looking for a community or communities to build and test ultra high-speed internet service as much as 100 times faster than what Americans are used to using at home. The company is accepting applications through March 26, and **Patrick McMahon**, executive director of **Project Future** says the greater St. Joseph County community is the perfect place for Google because the groundwork has already been laid. "We think we give them a very affordable platform to spring forward from," said McMahon. That platform, he said, is the **St. Joe Valley Metronet** — more than 50 miles of fiber optic cable buried underground, built five years ago for local schools, hospitals, and businesses to use for high-speed internet access. "One major consideration for Google will be the ease of working with local governments and partners to install the fiber network. Not only does Metronet have a large network already in place, it also has agreements with South Bend, Mishawaka, and St. Joseph County that allow access to rights of way to expand the network," according to a news release from McMahon and Metronet executive director **Mary Jan Hedman**. "These agreements mean construction can begin here as quickly as Google is ready." "A pitch we'd like to make to Google is not only are we ready, but we're moving down this path and can you catch up to us?" said McMahon. "We'd love to have them as a partner." *WSBT 03/11/09*

Fanning Howey, an architectural and engineering firm with nearly five decades of experience serving Indiana communities, is moving its **Michigan City** office to **South Bend**. "The move to South Bend will allow Fanning Howey to better serve our clients in all parts of northern Indiana and southwestern Michigan," said Executive Director **J. Scott Winchester**, AIA. "Our central location will benefit all clients: school districts, colleges and universities, public libraries and municipalities." 130 S. Main Street, Suite 300, South Bend. More than 20 employees—including architects, engineers, and construction administrators—will be moving into the state-of-the-art facility in downtown South Bend. Site selection and lease negotiations were facilitated by Dustin Looper of Resource Commercial Real Estate. "After exhausting all options in Michigan City and suburban South Bend/Mishawaka, downtown South Bend provided the solution, both economically and subjectively," Looper said. *IB 3/12/10*

Mark Wainscott and his wife, **Jackie**, opened **Third Alarm Grill**, located in the **Quality Inn** hotel at 515 Dixie Way. Wainscott has incorporated an "emergency services" theme, with the hope that area emergency services employees will bring in items or photos with which he can decorate. Third Alarm Grill, which provides food for Gippers Lounge as well as catering for the hotel, incorporates the theme on its menu, offering items like the Third Alarm Burger, Command Post Club, and Ladder 16 Philly sandwich. The appetizers are called 1st Responders. "We had fun with the menu," Wainscott says. "I know a lot of people think of hotel restaurants as fine dining and expensive. We'll be the opposite. We have six kids of our own so we know the challenge of going out to eat. We want customers to feel full when they leave, and feel like they had a good meal at a reasonable price." *SBT 3/12/10*

Pages in Time Forever opened its doors as planned on

Thursday at 1411 Grape Road, Mishawaka. Store hours are 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. *SBT 3/12/10*

In downtown South Bend, a Saturday opening is scheduled at **Third Buffet**, located in the former Mark's Restaurant, 112 W. Colfax Ave., according to signage posted on the door. *SBT 3/12/10*

K's Grill & Pub will reopen for business on Saturday. This is the same restaurant located at 1733 South Bend Ave., South Bend, that closed less than a month ago. *SBT 3/12/10*

If the **Indiana Commission for Higher Education** approves the decision of the **Ivy Tech** Board of Trustees, a two-year nanotechnology program could begin in fall 2011. Students who graduate from high school with a strong background in math and science can start a career in two years, earning \$45,000 a year — it's how **Dr. Jim Powell**, dean of arts and sciences at Ivy Tech in South Bend, sees the benefits of a proposed nanotechnology associate's degree program. Powell and other deans from the community college are one step closer to making the associate's program a reality. Ivy Tech trustee's approved a proposal to create the program. "Nanotech will be important to South Bend, mostly with nano-electronics," said Powell. If Indiana's Commission for Higher Education approves plans, Ivy Tech will be able to provide the local job market with a skilled workforce as early as fall, 2011. *SBT 3/17/10*

Heather R. Tonk, previously director of strategic planning in the Office of Strategic Planning and Institutional Research at the **University of Notre Dame**, has been appointed director of sustainability at the University, effective April 1. In addition to her bachelor's degree from Notre Dame, Tonk also received her master's degree in business administration from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. "Our Office of Sustainability has shown excellent progress in developing and implementing sustainability practices since its inception just two years ago," said James J. Lyphout, vice president for business operations. "Heather's experience, vision and enthusiasm will be valuable assets as Notre Dame aspires to be recognized as a leader in higher education sustainability." *IB 3/17/10*

If **St. Joseph's High School** supporters get their wish, a brand-new, \$35 million high school will open in the fall of 2013 at the downtown site of the former Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center. **Susan Lightcap**, an English teacher and spokeswoman for the high school, said of the \$35 million that needs to be raised by June 2011 for the campaign, which school officials are dubbing "Forward in Faith," some \$16.5 million already has been secured. "It's an excellent start," she said. The high school's current building was erected in the early- to mid-1950s, Lightcap said. It lacks air conditioning, centralized offices and the proper infrastructure necessary to easily accommodate up-to-date technology, among other things, she said. At 38 acres, the proposed new site for the school is double the size of its current site. Enrollment at St. Joe is about 840, Lightcap said. The new building would be designed with a target enrollment of about 900, a number Catholic educators believe is ideal for a high school, she said. The new high school likely would be done in two phases, she said, the first of which would include two gymnasiums and a chapel. The second phase, for which an additional \$8 million to \$9 million would have to be later raised, would be for the addition of a Performing Arts Center. While the tan brick building across the street from the University of Notre Dame has been home to the birth of wonderful traditions and served the St. Joe community well for decades, it's time to move on, Lightcap said. "It's not a building for the 21st century, which is what we need," she said. St. Joseph Regional

Medical Center, which moved into a new \$355 million facility in Mishawaka in December, has agreed to donate the land on which the former downtown South Bend hospital sits. *SBT 3/20/10*

It's not a huge impact, but **Notre Dame** hosting the first and second round games of the **NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament** Sunday and Tuesday is definitely a plus to the coffers of the local economy. Josh Berlo, senior assistant athletics director for guest relations and event marketing at Notre Dame, said Cleveland State is expected to bring 450 fans, Wisconsin 200 and Vermont 100. "We expect well over 1,000 through the area," he said of fans supporting the three schools. That, of course, multiplies into hotel rooms, meals and gasoline purchases. **Paul Laskowski**, interim president and chief executive of the **Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County** who also is doubling as interim director of the South Bend/ Mishawaka Convention and Visitors Bureau, said the impact likely will be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. But there are other benefits as well. "The thing that happens is that you get that national exposure," he said referring to ESPN's coverage and other media outlets. "People talk about the game being played at South Bend and Notre Dame." *SBT 3/20/10*

Betz's Dairy Queen is open for business again after a fire in February did significant damage to the newly remodeled business. The business, at 117 E. McKinley Ave., re-opened Friday after a Feb. 7 fire sent smoke and flames shooting from the building. At the time of the fire, **Jim Betz**, store owner, said he'd just spent \$300,000 completing renovations to the business he's owned for 35 years. *WSBT 3/21/10*

National College, a private, for-profit college, will open a campus this summer near downtown **South Bend**. National College will locate in a building it bought at 1030 E. Jefferson Blvd. at Eddy Street. The building formerly housed Brown Mackie College, which moved last year to a new campus on Douglas Road. National College focuses on career education in business, computers and health care. The campus initially will offer a variety of short-term diploma programs, college spokesman Chuck Steenburgh said. Within a few months, it expects to offer associate's degree programs. If demand is evident, the college eventually could add bachelor's degree programs here, he said. National College will start with an enrollment of about 25 in June and expects to grow to 400 or 500 students within two years, Steenburgh said. The most popular program of study is medical assisting, followed by business administration management. The campus initially will hire about 10 full-time staff and faculty, all from the South Bend area, he said. *WSBT 3/24/10*

Rob DeCleene has been named the executive director of the **South Bend/Mishawaka Convention and Visitors Bureau**, an initiative of The Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County, according to Chamber Interim President and CEO Paul Laskowski. Most recently, DeCleene served as the director of tourism for the Bloomington/Monroe County (Ind.) Convention & Visitors Bureau where he has been employed in various positions since 2001. He was president of Downtown Bloomington, Inc., where he served on the board of directors since 2007. *IB 3/25/10*

Several dozen people gathered Wednesday at Nuner Primary Center to offer input on a plan to extend **Northside Trail** from Ironwood Drive to Logan Street. The trail currently runs along the south side of Northside Boulevard from Howard Park almost to Ironwood Drive, where it dead-ends. Preliminary plans call for extending the trail east along the south side of Pleasant Street to 26th Street. There, the trail would either continue along Pleasant all the way to Logan or jog south on 26th to Northside Boulevard. The plan would add about 1.2

miles to South Bend's trail system and also link it to Mishawaka's system, which begins on the other side of Logan. As part of the surface transportation bill, the federal government has committed \$1.4 million to the project. That commitment requires a 20 percent match from the city. *SBT 3/25/10*

Every inch of floor tile, every aisle of shelving, every light bar and bulb in the building will be replaced during the \$2 million renovation under way at the Mishawaka **Wal-Mart**. If it sounds expansive, it is. The **Mishawaka** store is getting the national chain's most extensive remodel. "It shows how strongly Wal-Mart feels about the Mishawaka community," store manager **Larry Schumacher** says, noting how lots of stores receive a remodel closer to \$1 million. The Mishawaka store, which Schumacher has managed for 10 years, is also unique in that it will receive a huge electronics department expansion, as well as a brand new College Sports Shop that has a heavy focus on the Fighting Irish. Employment is expected to increase from 330 to between 360 and 375 when the remodel is done. From the new wall colors that pop out at the customer, to the gentle European-like curves in the home lines shelving, "this is a big piece of the puzzle in terms of capturing market share," Schumacher says. *SBT 3/26/10*

Transforming university technology research into commercial businesses requires a culture of innovation, business and community leaders were told Tuesday. That culture of cooperative innovation appears to be well under way in the South Bend area, Dale Gannaway, vice president for business development at Emergent Technologies Inc., said during the **Project Future** annual luncheon at the Blue Heron at Blackthorn. South Bend area government and business leaders are working closely with the University of Notre Dame. Those involved hope science and technology inventions by Notre Dame researchers will turn into start-up companies at nearby Innovation Park — and eventually grow to become permanent businesses in Ignition Park or elsewhere in the region. Success requires a hand from all parties, Gannaway said: an economic development group such as Project Future; the private sector, to provide capital; university leaders and researchers, for research facilities and inventions; political leaders, to craft meaningful legislation and champion the effort; and "civic entrepreneurs," who help break down the walls between the various parties. *SBT 3/31/10*

Leo Ditchcreek, known to the public for his zany commercials on behalf of **Notre Dame Federal Credit Union**, resigned March 9 as the credit union's chief executive officer to pursue other interests. "It was a shock. I think he felt like he wanted to do something different," said Vic DeCola, chairman of the board for the credit union, said in a phone interview Tuesday. "He was the credit union for 17 years, 15 years as the CEO, and we had some great growth while he was there," DeCola said. Ditchcreek could not be reached for comment. One day after his resignation, the credit union appointed Rick Burden, as interim CEO. He had been the vice president for operations. During Ditchcreek's time as CEO, he helped grow it from a credit union with assets of \$120 million to its current \$427 million. The board of directors noted in a press release on the credit union's Web site that when Ditchcreek first began working for the credit union in 1993, it only had one full-service branch and two partial-service offices. Now it has 10 full-service branches, one-walk-up facility and its membership has grown from just over 30,000 to 62,000 members. *SBT 3/31/10*

Sources:
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