

WEATHER



Mostly cloudy
High 46
Low 40

TUESDAY
JANUARY 3, 2006

Journal Review

INSIDE 13 miners trapped in W.Va. coal mine blast
[PAGE 7B]

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**MCED
A look
into the
new year**

*MCED's new
campaign kicks off*

MEL ROBERTSON
mel@jrp.com

A county official is hopeful Montgomery County will experience progress in 2006 through current programs, a new marketing campaign and developing infrastructure.

"I'm optimistic," said Montgomery County Economic Development executive director Bill Henderson. The numbers are promising us that at 2006 will have slight improvement in Midwest manufacturing. It's not going to be a fast growth, it's slow growth is good news."



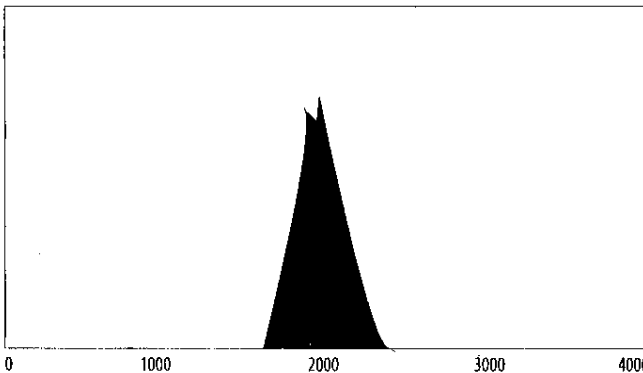
Henderson

**What's
ahead
for MCED
in 2006?**

- Dubose Manufacturing continues development
 - MCED new marketing campaign
 - More educational opportunities
- As the new Road Industrial corridor continues to develop from the planning stages, one industry has broken ground. Dubose Manufacturing, a steel and plastic strapping manufacturer, began "pushing dirt around" before winter weather began and will continue to build once weather permits, Henderson said. "It's a good company," Henderson said. "Good paying jobs."

• See MCED/6B

**Is THIS
the ENERGY
CURVE of
HISTORY?**



**What's ahead?
How does it affect us?
How can you save money?**

**Find out at the Indiana
Energy Conference.**

WADE CORGESHALL
wade@jrp.com

Frank Cicela is feeling the pinch of increased energy costs just like everyone else.

When the Alcoa project manager moved to Crawfordsville six years ago, he estimated he was paying 60-70 cents a gallon for propane to heat his home. On his last bill, it was up



event organized by Cicela that will be conducted on all four Saturdays in January at the Vanity Theatre, 122 S. Washington St. Each day begins at 1 p.m. and includes a mix of discourse, film screenings and speaker presentations. Admission is free, though attendees are encouraged to register. Donations will be accepted, as Cicela is funding the seminar himself.

Cicela has always been interested in environmental issues and, in extension, keeping it sustainable. But it was a book on human activities effects on the planet



Doug Hunt/doug@jrp.com

FIREFIGHTERS secure the scene of a fire Monday morning at 703 E. College St. Crawfordsville Fire Chief Todd Barton said cause of the fire is of a suspicious nature.

**OFFICIALS
INVESTIGATE
HOUSE FIRE**

DOUG HUNT
doug@jrp.com

An unoccupied Crawfordsville house without utilities sustained fire damage after 11 a.m. Monday. The cause is being investigated as "suspicious," Fire Chief Todd Barton said.

Firefighters were called to 703 E. College St. after neighbors reported seeing smoke coming from the structure. The house is located just east of John Street.



Barton

"The fire started in the bedroom — located on the northeast side of the house — and damaged all the furniture in the room," Barton said. "There was a large amount of smoke and heat damage inside the house."

Barton suspects the fire had been burning for a lengthy amount of time before neighbors called it in.

"In an enclosed house like that the fire could have been burning for some time before someone noticed," Barton said.

• See FIRE/2A

INSIDE



New laws hit the books (one of them involves a salamander)

ANTIQUES

**A dream put
on hold finally
becomes reality**

BRITNEY DICK
britney@jrp.com

**CEDAR BOX
ANTIQUES**

Mark and Cindy Roche bought their Crawfordsville home with the hope of converting the old

Location:

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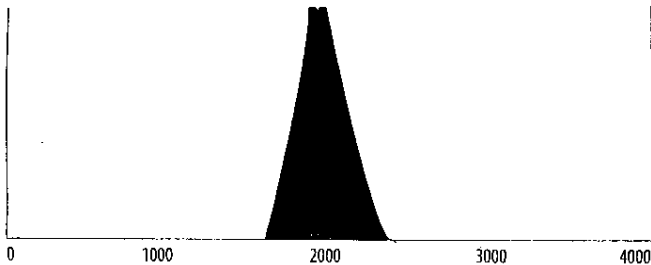


Henderson

What's ahead for MCED in 2006?

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- MCED new marketing campaign
- More educational opportunities

• See MCED/6B



**What's ahead?
How does it affect us?
How can you save money?
Find out at the Indiana Energy Conference.**

WADE COGGESHALL
wade@jpress.com

Frank Cicela is feeling the pinch of increased energy costs just like everyone else.

When the Alcoa project manager moved to Crawfordsville six years ago, he estimated he was paying 60-70 cents a gallon for propane to heat his home. On his last bill, it was up to \$1.79 a gallon.

To Cicela, it seems like the right time to conduct an organized discussion on energy use in the United States — what's coming, how it affects us, what we can do to save money. Such topics will be tackled at the Indiana Energy Conference, an



Cicela

event organized by Cicela that will be conducted on all four Saturdays in January at the Vanity Theatre, 122 S. Washington St. Each day begins at 1 p.m. and includes a mix of discourse, film screenings and speaker presentations. Admission is free, though attendees are encouraged to register. Donations will be accepted, as Cicela is funding the seminar himself.

Cicela has always been interested in environmental issues and, in extension, keeping it sustainable. But it was a book on human activity's effects on the planet, "The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight" by Thom Hartman, that spurred him to do more than just inform himself.

"That kind of turned me on to the whole notion of what's going on energy-wise," Cicela said. "In terms of putting on the

• See ENERGY/6B

'Imagine pushing your car for 20 miles. You can use rope and pulleys, but no motors, no electricity. That's the hard work that we pay \$3 a gallon for.'

Richard Heinberg

IDE



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t gallery

Young artists page 8B

**INVESTIGATE
HOUSE FIRE**

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Barton

• See FIRE/2A

ANTIQUES

A dream put on hold finally becomes reality

BRITNEY DICK
britney@jpress.com

Mark and Cindy Roche bought their Crawfordsville home with the hope of converting the old sheep barn into an antique shop.

They put their dream on hold in mid 1998 after a hit-and-run driver struck their former dog, Reba.

Cindy found Reba lying in a steep ditch at the edge of their property. Water streamed over the dog's motionless body.

The couple took their beloved German shepherd to Purdue University's veterinary school, where she underwent four costly surgeries to fix her hips and hind legs.

In order to fund the bills, Cindy had a giant yard sale with the antiques she had been saving

• See DREAM/3A

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January 3, 2006

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Classified	1C-6C	Dear Abby	5B	Obituaries	2A	Sports	1B-3B
Comics	4B	Horoscope	4B	Viewpoints	4A	Diversions	5B
		Lifestyle	5A-6A			Weather	6C



6B • Tuesday, January 3, 2006

ENERGY: Conference will address costs

FROM PAGE 1A

conference, I work for Alcoa and energy costs for refining aluminum are huge. We do what we can to reduce energy usage. It's just a huge focal point within our organization. Seeing what's happened in recent months — everything from the hurricane to China becoming a big petroleum user — has really impacted our bottom line."

Alcoa paid for Cicela to attend the second U.S. Conference on Peak Oil and Community Solutions in September at Yellow Springs, Ohio. The sponsorship was contingent on Cicela relating what he learned at the symposium to his colleagues and community.

"It's incredibly important to address these types of things to maintain a vibrant community," he said. "I know (fuel costs are) personally affecting the choices we make as a family, and I'm sure it's having an impact on other folks. So it's a matter of getting together and sharing stories, pooling information. Everyone's facing the same problem, so how can we get in front of one another and share that stuff, say this helped my family, maybe it will help yours."

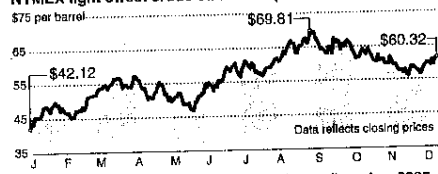
Cicela cautions against anyone labeling this discussion as slanted toward any specific political ideology.

"I don't want folks to come away looking at this thing on a spectrum of left to right, liberal or conservative," he said. "What I want from people is they've got this issue of energy, and everybody is sitting around this issue in a circle, and everybody has a different perspective on it. From where I sit, I've got this view of this topic of energy, but if you're on the other side of the table, I can't see what it is you see. I might be totally blown away at what it is you see. I definitely want this to be a conversation, and I want it done respectfully. I

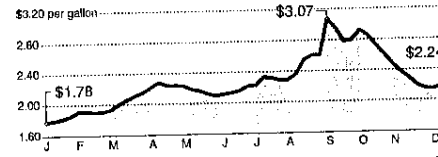
Energy costs soar in 2005

As crude oil soared to almost \$70 a barrel in late August, consumers started taking on higher prices in gasoline and other energy.

NYMEX light sweet crude oil futures prices, 2005



U.S. weekly average retail gasoline prices, all grades, 2005



SOURCE: Department of Energy

want people to listen, hear what others have to say and go back and forth. If we end up debating that's fine, but I'd rather have something that's raising awareness, generating conversation."

Live speakers at the Indiana Energy Conference will talk about biodiesel, including a couple graduate students who've been brewing it from leftover restaurant grease for more than a year. Other topics include motor efficiency and biomass gasification as an alternative to petroleum-based fuels.

Given recent events, like gas peaking at more than \$3 a gallon to 50,000 people in the northeast losing electricity to a grid failure, Cicela thinks the energy utopia we've enjoyed for almost 30 years is rapidly diminishing.

"There's starting to be an awareness that hasn't been in our consciousness since maybe the '70s, with the initial oil shock," he said. "For quite a long time, we've really been spoiled by incredibly cheap energy. (With) the availability of natural gas and petroleum, we're coming up on a threshold where

demand caused by the developing world is starting to strip away at what might've once been available for U.S. consumption. They're competing for it just as we are."

That being energy conscious is not even in Cicela's job description shows how passionate he is on the topic. Without trying to sound too dire, Cicela considers fuel supplies and its repercussions on society as one of the biggest concerns facing us. Now's a better time than later to begin addressing it.

"Availability of energy is going to peak at some point," Cicela said. "Whether it's 10 years, whether it's 50 years, I'm not going to try to forecast that. But it's going to happen sooner or later. If you've got something that you know is going to happen in 50 years, it gives you time to do something about it. If you sit for 49 years, and at the 50th year you've got a problem, it's going to be too late."

For more information on the Indiana Energy Conference or to register, visit www.indianaenergyconference.org.

MCED: 2006 planning

FROM PAGE 1A

MCED has been planning a sewer district to cover the corridor, a part of infrastructure Henderson said will attract more companies once it is complete. The district will follow Nucor Road to Ind. 32, but details are not definite because it still is being developed, he said.

"We're still looking at options of how to get it done," he said. Planning, which will be paid by the county, should be complete by the end of the first quarter in 2006. MCED hopes to privatize the district as industries come in, he said.

"There are a couple more (companies) we are looking at and we are also trying to attract other industries," Henderson said. "One of the things we don't have is complete infrastructure."

While increasing infrastructure, MCED also will launch a new marketing campaign in 2006 to attract more industries to Montgomery County.

"Bright Future," a two-year marketing campaign, is intended to "attract skilled reliable workforce to (Montgomery County) industries and community," Henderson said. MCED hopes to appeal to previously laid-off workers and others within a 50-mile radius to increase county workforce population to 2,000 in five years, instead of the predicted 1,000.

"The campaign itself will depend on how our funding is."

Contributions have been made from local industries, businesses and utilities, including Nucor Steel, RR Donnelley, Pace Dairy and Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power, among others. The funding needed to launch the campaign is in good standing, Henderson said.

To coincide with new infrastructure, marketing and manufacturing, MCED also will continue pushing employers and employees to "work smart" by providing training through new and current programs.

School to Career Committee is a program the county will conduct in cooperation with Crawfordsville High School. The curriculum includes topics taught through WorkKeys, a Department of Workforce program, that are needed to educate those who will be joining the workforce after high school, Henderson said.

"We want to really increase workplace ethics in the coun-

ty so we have done something that is kind of unique," Henderson said. "We've been able to implement an accredited course, Careers and Manufacturing."

As workplace ethics are stressed, teacher-industry field trips, which began in November, will be used to improve communications between future workers and current industries. Heritage, Norcole and RR Donnelley have participated in the teacher-industry field trips, Henderson said.

"It was really worthwhile for the teachers and the industries," he said.

School to Career Committee is open to mostly CHS juniors and seniors as it will be associated with the ICE program. RR Donnelley Vice President Gary Calleo and Crawfordsville Community School Corporation Superintendent Kathy Steel are responsible for developing and coordinating the program, Henderson said.

As part of the WorkKeys program, certifications can be obtained to provide a more qualified range of employees.

"It gives employers a lot better idea of who they are hiring," he said.

"The certification program is formed with CHARACTER COUNTS! to allow workers to qualify for positions from production to management," Henderson said.

Another training program, SkillsNet allows companies to train employees, and in Montgomery County employees train together. The 6-year-old program includes training for those in school to those in the workplace.

"The fact that they are training together is kind of unique," Henderson said.

As current industries continue to increase expansion and production, MCED will continue to support those industries while attracting new ones. MCED hopes to increase workforce population by 2,000 in the next five years through Bright Future.

"Not only do we have several new jobs coming to our community, they are good jobs with well established companies," Henderson said in an MCED Year End Development Report. "Montgomery County is in a very good economic position to begin 2006."

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North Sea
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Roof ice rink

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