

opinion

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THE KOKOMO PERSPECTIVE IS PUBLISHED 52 TIMES EACH YEAR AND IS DISTRIBUTED TO 31,000 HOMES IN HOWARD COUNTY.



Illustration by Sterling Clark

It's already good, now make it great

The last few weeks have been filled with good news for Kokomo and Howard County. Private development after private development is rolling down the pipes.

All of this has been capped off by the official announcement of the hotel/convention center, which is slated to be constructed in the heart of downtown in the coming year.

It's another spate of good news for our city, with another business bringing more jobs to an area in desperate need of continued economic diversification, and it holds the promise to bring more disposable income from outside the community to the area surrounding the planned development.

That's all good news, but it can be made great before the hotel/convention center even opens.

It seems that with every new development, or at least

most, local labor has missed out on the opportunity to capitalize on the gains Kokomo has incurred.

No, local government doesn't have the final say on who wins bids for these projects. After all, they are private developments.

But as local labor leaders have said this week, they need to be brought into the fold. Local union workers live in this community. They spend money in this community, and the pay they receive for working on local projects will stay in this community. Every dollar they receive would be a benefit to Howard County and Kokomo, and these benefits must be brought to the forefront of conversation.

Not every community is lucky enough to get what we've gotten, and it's only right that local labor gets a fair shake and bids for these projects.

from the Supreme Court, but did not specify the number of Justices nor their qualifications. The Constitution doesn't even specify the Justices need to be a lawyer. The number of Supreme Court Justices was set by Congress at 5 in 1801.

And adjusted over the years by the party in power.

1807 - seven
1837 - nine
1863 - ten
1866 - seven
1869 to present - nine

If one party takes the House and Senate and sees the other as leading the court they can change the law increasing the number of Justices to balance the court or even load it themselves.

Larry Brooks
Kokomo

Thanks for WIOU CAM tournament

Thank you to the Golfers and Supporters of the 21st WIOU-CAM Golf Tournament at the Kokomo Country Club Saturday, June 9th. It was a beautiful day and CAM raised \$10,083.00.

In the 21 years, WIOU-CAM Golf Tournament has raised \$186,041.23. For all the years of support, CAM wishes to especially thank WIOU and Rob Rupe, Cary Hurgate - Golf Pro, Tony Tutela, and Country Club Staff were very helpful and made the day enjoyable and the banquet food terrific. Thank you.

The Most Generous Church Trophy, raising the most money, was retained by St. Andrews.

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Why local labor matters

Will the Dora Hotel Company use local labor to build the new

masses and doesn't even get to take pride in building them.

Our motto at IBEW Local 873 is "Local Workers, Local Jobs, and a Strong Local Economy." We have seen in Kokomo recently many projects that are being done by a workforce that doesn't even live here. Some of these general contractors or development companies pay cash wages and use misclassification of workers to drive out local contractors and rob our community.

Here's one example: the 306 Riverfront apartments in Kokomo were built with zero local labor. Most of our citizens don't even know who is doing the construction or they would be outraged to say the least. These parasites come into

columnist



Mike Young

hotel/convention center? That is the question many in our city want to know. They talk like that is a priority, but we have heard that before.

Local labor is the catalyst that makes any community function at a high level. Local workers build things; local workers spend their money locally,

“ These parasites come into our community, take our jobs, and take our wages home with them. They fail to contribute to our communities by not paying local taxes needed for our schools, roads, community programs, etc. ”

support local businesses, pay taxes locally, and so on. The people of Kokomo are people who care deeply about their community and thankfully so. We see this with We Care, United Way, Kokomo Rescue Mission, Bona Vista, and the list goes on and on. We are proud to see new structures being built such as the new apartment buildings, and the upcoming hotel/convention center in downtown Kokomo but not at the expense of the local worker who is expected to pay rent in these new structures or patronize and keep afloat these new busi-

nesses, take our jobs, and take our wages home with them. They fail to contribute to our communities by not paying local taxes needed for our schools, roads, community programs, etc. They don't spend their money in our small businesses to help our families. We cannot and will not sit by and watch this happen anymore! So again I ask, will the Dora Hotel Company use local labor to build the new hotel/convention center? I certainly hope so.

Mike Young is the business manager for the Electrical Professionals of IBEW 873.

Letters to the editor

Drain the swamp

Drain the swamp, get the crooks out. Trump supporters wear hats, t-shirts, and shout at rallies "Drain the Swamp." President Trump gets the chant going by raising his fist in the air yelling "Drain the swamp."

Mueller's team has indicted or gotten guilty pleas from 3 companies and 20 people - Draining the Swamp.

People drained from the swamp include 4 former Trump advisors and dollar to a donut there will be many more indictments. Another Trump advisor, Rodger Stone, has admitted he met with the Russians in 2016 to get dirt on Hillary Clinton.

As Mueller rolls on draining the swamp Re-

publicans call for an end to the investigation. Why? Are they afraid Mueller might find corruption that involves them?

A tell in poker can give away your hand. Objecting to the Mueller investigation is a tell by politicians who have something to hide.

On Face book it seems everyone has to come to accept the fact that corruption in Washington is the rule of the day, not the exception. If this corruption is as extensive as everyone thinks wouldn't it be prudent for the Mueller team to continue digging in the mud even after the Russian investigation is concluded?

Number of justices
The Constitution gave Congress the right to



Runnin' the Shores 5K Run/Walk August 18, 2018

Join the St. Vincent Kokomo Foundation for a family-friendly 5K along the scenic trails of Champagne Shores. Whether you run or walk the gentle 3.1 mile course, you'll improve your cardiovascular health and be eligible for awards. Proceeds from this event will be used to support the Cancer Center expansion at St. Vincent Kokomo.

Download the registration form at stvincent.org/runwitheshores or call 765.456.5406.

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