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# Chamber of Commerce: Inside the awards

A closer look at companies, individuals, groups that shined

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Written by Palladium-Item

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## Partnership in Education

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Manufacturing Matters. In 2013, this collaboration between Ivy Tech Community College and Corporate College, WorkOne, the Economic Development Corporation of Wayne County and the chamber launched training designed to address the needs of local manufacturers. "When we look at the challenges our community is facing, addressing workforce development issues is at the top of the priority list," said Valerie Shaffer, EDC president. "This initiative presents a great opportunity for our existing manufacturers to hire applicants with tangible skills and it is also a good attraction tool for new businesses because it's important that they know that skilled labor can be found in our region."

## Corporation of the Year

Richmond Baking Co. Since its founding in 1902, the company has been led by four generations of the Quigg family. Its specialties include graham cracker crumbs used to make cheesecake and cookies and crackers sold under a variety of labels. "Being new to town, it did not take long to realize that the Richmond Baking Co. and the Quigg family have a deep commitment to the Wayne County quality of life," said Mark Soukup, president and chief executive officer of Wayne Bank and Trust. "In addition to operating a great family business, they proudly give their time, talent and treasure to positively impact community efforts. We are all better off because of this family."

## Bob Rosa Buy Local Award

Earlham College. Director of Facilities Ian Smith estimates about \$18 million of more than \$34 million in direct costs associated with

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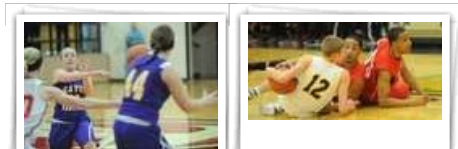
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recent building projects on campus were awarded to county-based firms.

Keith Whisenhunt of Whisenhunt Construction said, "After 37 years in business, Earlham College is hands down my most valued customer. Whisenhunt Construction has completed a countless number of projects on their campus over the years, both large and small. I am proud to say we have a working relationship based on mutual trust and respect ... where a promise or a handshake is still as good as gold."

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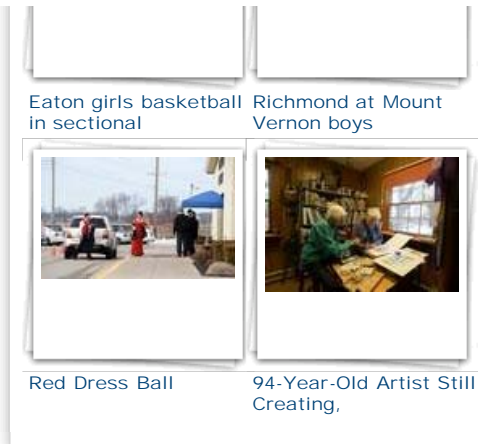
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