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WATCH OUT...DON'T STAND UNDER THE ARCH!

# City Hall needs facelift

Precariously dangling gargoyles force city to take action

By Lisa Mayor

Pawnee Journal Reporter

Pawnee City Hall is in desperate need of major attention. According to one City Hall source, "It is the oldest continuously used government building in the county; the heart of Pawnee civic life. And it is filled with irreplaceable artifacts and priceless works of art...and it's falling apart. The nearly century-old Pawnee City Hall has a roof in imminent danger of collapse, crumbling mortar in the walls, plaster peeling from the ceiling, outdated electrical, heating and cooling systems—and it requires sprinklers and fire alarms to meet new building codes."

The repairs are going to cost an estimated \$9 million. Previous mayors have known about the restorations that needed to be made and put these issues on the back-burner. Now it is too late and this job cannot be pushed back further and Mayor Gundersen is going to have to find the cash for the repairs that started in March 2009.

One of the startling discoveries made by engineers is water damage that had been rotting wood for years where they Mayor and his staff work. Most of the work is being done in the west wing of City. Work in the east wing will begin in summer 2010. The whole project is expected to be done by 2012.

Waiting is expensive and this has been made painfully obvious to those involved in all aspects of this restoration project. If repairs would have been made when they became known and not just pushed aside, the city and its taxpayers would not be paying for the extra repair costs now.

The three-year project will restore the building's 1,900 windows, replace the copper roofing on its two spires and replace cracked terra cotta sculpturing, clock gables and broken bricks. However, Pawnee City Planner Mark Brendanawicz said the majority of the construction budget will be spent on basic restoration of City Hall's sandstone and red brick exterior.

The exterior work will stop water from leaking into the structural masonry that supports the building. Since the structural masonry has no problems, the building should be able to last centuries so long as the

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Pawnee City Hall, built in 1927, may have been constructed with low-grade materials, including cement mixed with corn starch and other thickeners.

CITY FISCAL MELTDOWN

# State won't commit to \$5M bailout package

Governor, key lawmakers agree: no help for Pawnee

By Florencia Martin

Pawnee Journal Reporter

The Hoosier Dome, the new home of the Indianapolis Colts NFL franchise, will be completed in May, 1984 at a cost of \$82 million as part of the Indiana Convention Center, with the costs split evenly between private and public money. Grand opening ceremonies for the Hoosier Dome are due to take place on May 3, 1984.

Prior to moving to Indianapolis after the 1983 season, the Colts had played in Baltimore since 1953, at Memorial Stadium, also the home of the Baltimore Orioles. The city decided to build the domed stadium before the Colts agreed to move to Indianapolis in 1982, largely because of its adaptability to accommodate a variety of events, including football. Meanwhile in Baltimore, the Colts were dissatisfied with the conditions of Memorial Stadium and decided to move to Indianapolis after the 1983 NFL season.

The stadium is similar in design and appearance to the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis and BC Place Stadium in Vancouver, British Columbia, owing in great part to the involvement of engineer David Geiger, pioneer in air-supported roofs. The stadium will seat a crowd of 60,272 for football games. The football playing surface will be made of AstroTurf.

Basketball will also played at the Hoosier Dome. The first game to be played there will be an exhibition game in September between an NBA All-Star team led by home-state hero Larry Bird and the United States Olympic Men's Basketball team, coached by Bob Knight, coach of Indiana University. The dome will also serve as the site of the NBA All-Star Game in February 1985, where the Western Conference will play the Eastern Conference. It is scheduled to host many NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Championship games, including the Final Fours. The NCAA, whose headquarters are in Indianapolis, has committed to holding the Final Four in Indianapolis once every five years. The closing ceremony and the gymnastics and handball events of the 1987 Pan American Games are also due to be held in the Hoosier Dome.

In addition, it will host General Conference Sessions of Seventh-day Adventists, WrestleMania, the Indiana High School Athletic Association's annual boys and girls championships, and serve as one of two sites for the FIBA Men's World Basketball Championship Tournament, sharing the honors with Conseco Fieldhouse, the home of the Indiana Pacers. Additionally, the Hoosier Dome will serve as the site of the Indiana State School Music Association State Marching Band Competition, the Bands of America Grand Nationals, and the Drum Corps International Midwestern Regional, along with the NFL Scouting Combine in February of each year. It will also host a PBR Series bull riding event.

The official roots of the franchise go back to December 28, 1946, when the bankrupt Miami Seahawks of the All-America Football Conference were purchased and relocated in Baltimore by a group headed by Bob Rodenberg. As the result of a contest in Baltimore, won by Charles Evans of Middle River, Md., the team was renamed the "Colts." On September 7, 1947, wearing the green and silver uniforms, the Colts, under Head Coach Cecil Isbell, won their initial AAFC game, 16-7, over the Brooklyn Dodgers. The team concluded its inaugural season before a record Baltimore crowd of 51,583 by losing to the New York Yankees, 21-7. The Colts finished with a 2-11-1 record, good for a fourth place finish in the Eastern Division. The Colts completed the 1948 season with a 7-8 record, tying the Buffalo Bills for the division title. The Colts compiled a 1-11 mark in 1949. Y. A. Tittle was the Colts starting quarterback.

The AAFC and NFL merged in 1950, and the Colts joined the NFL. After posting a 1-11 record for the second consecutive year, the franchise was dissolved by

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# Golf course menace 'Fairway Frank' caught bare-handed

Attacking mayor's dog was the last straw for canny marsupial

By Shauna Malwae-Tweep

Pawnee Journal Reporter

John "Grizzly" Adams...Daniel Boone...Ernest Hemingway. To the roll call of great hunters throughout history, add the name of Andy Dwyer, the Pawnee shoeshine boy—or should I say Shoeshine Man—who nabbed "Fairway Frank," the perfidious possum accused of attacking the mayor's dog.

According to Dwyer, the possum met its Waterloo on the sixth hole of the Pawnee Public Golf Course. "He was slippery, like a seal," says Dwyer, "but also quick, like a quick seal. So what I did was, I grabbed him, with my hands, and held on really tight."

Dwyer went on to tell this reporter and the spellbound onlookers at City Hall about his mental state at the time of the fateful encounter. "Let me explain something to you. When you're in a situation, you don't have time to think. So I thought to myself: 'Don't think. Act.' I cannot emphasize enough how little I was thinking. Something took ahold of my body—I don't want to call it God, but it was definitely a superhero of some kind. All I know is, my right arm and left arm acted together like an awesome team. Next thing you know: possum, me, caught, done, awesome, me."

But Dwyer had some help catching the possum. "I wouldn't have been able to do it without an early-morning caffeine boost from the amazing April Ludgate," said Dwyer, perched dangerously on the edge of a stool. "She gave me the liquid courage I needed to wrestle that beast to the ground."

The common opossum or "possum" is a

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Andrew Dwyer, who works full-time at the shoeshine stand in Pawnee City Hall, credits God, catlike reflexes and strong coffee for his unexpected success as a possum-catcher.