

The Way We See It

Economic growth is a must for area

After a Saturday evening fire gutted a Main Street business, one passerby was overheard saying, "That's all we need, another business gone."

The Way We See It, we hope Main Street Sports rebuilds, reorganizes and reopens - sooner, rather than later.

But a larger issue remains.

Over the last few decades, the retail, manufacturing and employment outlook for the Greene County seat has slowly dwindled.

The Way We See It, there is very little reason Bloomfield can't again be the great town it once was - if not even better.

But, it will take the work of all of us. It will take a renewed Chamber of Commerce - with members who are active.

It will take a community whose mind is open to new ideas and some "outside-the-box" kind of thinking.

The Way We See It, we, as a community, can shine again. But it will take all of us using elbow grease and brain-power.

The current philosophy of the Greene County Economic Development Corp. is to work on attracting heavy hitters like those coming to the West Gate at Crane.

For that, we applaud them.

But, *The Way We See It*, the economic developers of Greene County should also be searching for small game - the folks who might employ eight or 10 people, the small mom-and-pop retailers - in short, the kind of businesses that make a small town great.

The Way We See It, if the Greene County Economic Development Corp. doesn't have the manpower or desire to go after smaller fish, then the Town of Bloomfield and its Chamber of Commerce needs to step up to the plate and take a swing.

The Way We See It, economic development - and our community's future - are inexplicably tied together.

The Way We See It, we can all watch our community shrivel, or we can collectively stomp on the brakes and turn this ship around.