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borg factory, located at 2935 W. 100 North. Conforce manufactures composite flooring systems for trucks, trailers and shipping containers. The company plans to invest more than \$13.8 million to purchase and equip the 155,000 square-foot facility to manufacture the company's trademarked EKO-FLOOR flooring brand.

Perry Pearlman, Conforce International Inc. vice president of busi-

ness development, told the council the company's plans to establish a facility in Peru depended on acquiring the former Trelleborg building.

"It's exciting to announce new investment in any part of our state, but it's a special joy when it occurs in a smaller community like Peru," said Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels. "We know Conforce had other

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Conforce Stats

Company: Conforce International Inc.
Headquarters: Toronto, Canada
Product: Specialized flooring
Hiring: 175 people by 2013
Salary: \$13 average per hour
Contact: info@conforceintl.com

tion plans take off



JEFF MOREHEAD / Peru Tribune

runway Wednesday at Peru Municipal Airport.

\$1.05 course of asphalt by Friday." The Indiana Department of Transportation performs studies for the FAA, and when INDOT examined the Peru Municipal Airport, it fell ten percent short of FAA standards, according to Ross. When INDOT analyses the runway pavement, it is ranked on a scale of 100.

Ross reported that before the project, parts of the runway had been ranked between 40 and 60. Once the project is complete, she said it should get the full 100 ranking.

The project has been de-

won't be a drop down." "I'd say they only have two weeks left until the project's done," Ross said. "They've done a great job out there."

Ross said that she anticipates the runway to have a service life of 20 years once the project is complete.

"We pulverized the existing runway, so we're not putting asphalt down on the cracks that had been on there," she said. "So it's essentially now a new runway."

Jury rules in favor of plaintiff

City of Peru liable in Trent's vehicular death

BY NANCY BENDER
nbender@perutribune.com

After deliberating for more than five hours Wednesday, the six-person jury ruled in favor of Rolla G. Trent, finding the City of Peru liable in the vehicular death of his wife, Shirley.

Although the trial was expected to continue onto the second stage of determining damages due the Trent family, both parties reportedly agreed on a settlement Wednesday evening at Miami Circuit Court. The terms of that settlement have not been disclosed.

Trent's attorneys, Richard A. Cook and Jason Shartzler, reported in a press release Thursday afternoon that during the course of deliberations, the jury submitted a note to the court, indicating they found the City of Peru had engaged in willful and wanton misconduct and Shirley Trent was negligent.

After additional deliberations and the substitution of a juror with an alternate, the jury reached a verdict at 6:40 p.m. Wednesday, according to the press release. The attorneys reported after the finding in favor of Trent, the case was settled by the parties "for an undisclosed sum of money."

Rolla Trent filed suit against the City of Peru and Peru Police Officer Rodney Richard in March 2005, claiming Richard's actions in the early morning hours of Dec. 21, 2004, resulted in the death of Shirley Trent. Attorney Richard Cook, one of the attorneys representing Trent, said Thursday afternoon the suit against Richard was dismissed since the court determined he was acting as an employee

supplies — pencils, pens, sharpeners, crayons, coloring books, writing pads, stickers; hygiene items — toothbrush, toothpaste, soap (in a bag), comb, washcloth; various other items — hard candy, lol-

Favor: Trent happy case is over

Continued from Page A1

of the City of Peru at the time of the crash on Strawtown Pike near the Peru Municipal Golf Course.

Master Trooper Earl McCullough testified during the trial that his accident reconstruction estimated Richard's patrol car had been traveling about 94 mph on Strawtown Pike during an emergency run as he crested a hill near the Municipal Golf Course and collided with Shirley Trent's vehicle as she was in the process of delivering newspapers for the Peru Tribune.

It was the contention of the City of Peru that since Shirley Trent was traveling north in the southbound lane on Strawtown Pike that morning, her actions had caused the accident which resulted in her death 11 days later.

Cook explained the case had been filed in Miami Circuit Court and was then assigned to Special Judge Christopher M. Goff of Wash County Superior Court. The suit was then removed to the U.S. District Court of Northern Indiana and after federal civil rights claims were disposed of by the federal court, the case returned to state court for resolution of the state claims, said Cook. After additional litigation in state court and appeals at the Indiana State Supreme Court, the suit was brought solely against the City of Peru.

"We were obviously happy with the verdict," said Shartzler.

"Obviously Mr. Trent was happy and relieved the case has been decided," added Cook. "From his perspective, this has been very cathartic for people to know what happened (to his wife). We just feel happy to finally have this case in the rear-view mirror."

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