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Sheriff to keep jail meal money

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Carroll County Council President Rob Baker announced at the Tuesday morning council meeting he and commissioners' president Bill Brown met with and offered sheriff Dennis Randle \$66,000 to relinquish the responsibility of providing meals to county jail detainees.

Randle rejected the offer said Baker and proposed a salary of \$72,500 for 2006. Randle has one year left to serve Carroll County as sheriff.

\$66,000 is two-thirds of the state-

mandated full-time salary of a prosecutor in a county the size of Carroll County.

Baker said according to the Association of Indiana Counties, the sheriff must be in agreement to surrender control of jail meals. He stated the council would have to meet Randle's salary demand as an agreement.

"We have to be in agreement," he stated. "To what degree do we feel we are responsible?"

However, council member John Blackburn disagreed. Blackburn said according to Indiana statute, the council can assume the meal respon-

Web poll
Who should provide jail meals?
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sibility from Randle for \$66,000.

Council members Steve Ashby and Nancy Cripe said they were in favor of paying Randle \$66,000 and taking over the meals.

Baker said the end-of-the-year

time line for accomplishing the goal was not going to be met, to which Blackburn responded, "A time line is not an issue. We don't have a contract with the sheriff for this."

Blackburn referred to a letter of concern about jail conditions written to Randle by county prosecutor Rob Ives. The letter, distributed to council members prior to the meeting, referred to complaints Ives' office has received about jail meals.

"We need to know what page we are on," Ashby said. "We need a legal opinion about this before we

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Retired pastor to be Flora parade marshal

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

This year's grand marshal of the Flora Christmas parade spent the first 18 years of his life in Pennsylvania. After 29 years in the Flora community, Rev. Alvin Grumbling now considers it his home.

"I've been in Flora longer than anywhere else," he said.

He pastored churches in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and California before coming to Flora in 1976.

He was pastor of the Flora First Brethren Church for 18 years, retiring in 1994.

Rev. Grumbling must leave a good impression, because he keeps getting call-backs.

After retiring from the First Brethren Church, he was called back in 2003 to become an interim pastor. That assignment lasted 14 months.

As pastor of the Brethren Church, he also served as unofficial chaplain of the former Brethren's Home. After he retired, the Brethren's Home board called him back to be the official chaplain, a paid position. He served in that capacity for two years.

Rev. Grumbling is on the board of directors for Camp Shishewana and for many years was director of canoe camp. Last July he was invited back, to help with canoe camp in Wisconsin. In past years, he rode the rapids with the campers. But he wasn't 78 then.

"I found out I could still do it," Rev. Grumbling said. "I enjoyed it."

Other things he enjoys are playing the harmonica and singing. He sings in his church choir, is on his church's Praise Team, and sings in the Community Choir.

One year at a community Thanksgiving service, there was no special music. Rev. Grumbling



Rev. Grumbling

was put on the spot and asked to sing. Phyllis Reinke from First Christian Church was asked to accompany him. Without preparation or practice, the two obliged.

Rev. Grumbling has always joked about his name. He often said, "I feel sorry for a church who has a pastor that's always Grumbling."

He served as a church pastor for a total of 46 years. Last March he reached a milestone of 55 years since his ordination.

He's known as Rev. Grumbling to some, and as Al or Uncle Al to others. He said he's comfortable with all three.

His past activities include serving 12 years on the TV council for the local access public TV station.

He was honored in 1990 as the recipient of the Lions' Pete Award.

Rev. Grumbling now stays busy as a supply pastor and as a member of the Flora Ministerial Association and Flora Lions Club.

He is the only surviving member of his immediate family. Meg, his wife of 48 1/2 years, died in 1997. Their son Dennis died in 1993. Another son, Gary, who was handicapped, died in 2002.

Speaking of his losses, Rev. Grumbling said, "The Lord brought me through it." He also praised the First Brethren Church for being very good to him and his family.

He is thankful to have a daughter-in-law and grandson in Chicago. He also feels blessed to live in Flora, which he calls "the hub of the universe."

"It's a very friendly place, a good place to live and a good place to retire," he said. "I've made a lot

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Time for Thanksgiving

The kindergarten display in the hallway at Carroll Elementary School depicts the first Thanksgiving, shared by the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people in 1621. It is a tradition at Carroll for the kindergartners to re-enact that feast. The two students pictured in front of the display are Gracie Meyer and Austen Shafer. At left, Thomas Miller is shown cutting out a feather for his Indian headdress. Kindergarten teachers are Caren Johnson, Giselle Parrett, and Jackie Williams. The display was made by prime time aide Jayne Huckstep. Comet photos by Jennifer Archibald

Resignations submitted to EDC

By Chris Parker
Staff writer

Two high-ranking members of the Carroll County Economic Development Corporation submitted their resignations at last Thursday's meeting.

President Lee Hoard said Tuesday he plans to step down Jan.

1, while Executive Director Bill Brown made his resignation effective Dec. 1.

The resignations follow a wave of criticism over the heavily-political composition of the corporation.

Hoard also serves as mayor of Delphi and Brown is president of the county commissioners.

Hoard has served on the EDC

since being elected mayor six years ago, but said he is now looking for a "business-minded individual" to fill his position on the board.

He has "spoken with one individual" already, Hoard said.

County Commissioners representative Loren Hylton also submitted his resignation and the commissioners voted at their Monday meeting to

place Commissioner George Mears in the seat.

The EDC also voted to donate \$20,000 to and provide office space for the newly-formed Carroll County Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber will seek to support local business and promote retention, while the EDC will continue to attract new businesses.

County to upgrade voting machines

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Carroll County Clerk and Election Board Secretary Laura Sterrett was granted permission to purchase 20 state approved Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant voting machines at the Monday morning commissioners' meeting.

Sterrett said the machines must be purchased by the end of the year but will cost the county nothing.

She stated that all polling places are required by the state to have one compliant machine. The county is entitled to a reim-

bursement of the requested \$120,000 for them.

The commissioners adopted a state-mandated resolution to complete the application for reimbursement. Additionally, a contract with Election Systems and Software, suppliers of the machines, was approved.

Emergency Management

EMA Director Justin Darling reported there are eight tornado sirens in the county. The City of Delphi has three, Flora two, Camden, Rockfield and Burlington have one siren each.

"I am concerned about us having enough siren capacity in our

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Plans unveiled for new senior housing in Delphi

By Kathy Mylet
Staff writer

The Area IV Agency on Senior and Family Services unveiled their plans for Walnut Grove Retirement Village, a new senior housing development in Delphi. The complex will be located at the juncture of Summit Street and Prince William Road.

Area IV executive director Sharon Wood presented plans at a meeting with agency representatives and individuals from the surrounding neighborhood last Wednesday at the Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center.

Wood said the residences would meet the need for safe and affordable housing for the aging population of Delphi. She stated there are many elderly cou-

ples and singles living on fixed incomes, who would benefit from a complex like Walnut Grove.

Sixteen duplexes are planned for the area. They are described as four pods of four, two bedroom duplexes each. The project includes a clubhouse and office and will be ADA compliant.

"The design will encourage social interaction and help residents to build a social network," said Wood.

David Uttermohlen, co-developer of the project, said the greatest growth in population for the next 20 years will be in the elderly. Uttermohlen presented income and rent statistics to demonstrate the need for subsidized housing for the elderly.

Uttermohlen described the philosophy of "aging in place," in which the elderly are provided an adaptable

environment in which they can function independently as they age. He also noted that the Summit Street neighborhood was desirable for the elderly because it is a quiet residential area with access to city services.

Those in attendance expressed concerns about traffic and property values. Wood told the group that the target population would not use their vehicles as frequently as younger residents, therefore traffic would be minimal.

One neighbor was concerned that the type of development proposed would "set the bar" for the future development of the Bowen Trust property. He stated a need for Delphi to attract and keep residents who could afford higher-end housing.

Current residents also expressed

concern about crumbling sidewalks on Summit Street. Delphi Mayor Lee Hoard, who was in attendance, said that the city has a program of sidewalk replacement and they might have to do more to help in that neighborhood.

Wood and Uttermohlen stated they are committed to working with neighbors and address their concerns. They assured residents that they would investigate possible alternative sites, and meet with adjoining property owners to try and address their issues.

The next step in the process is to meet with the Area Plan Commission and request a special exception hearing. That meeting will be Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. in the county courthouse. I f approved by APC, the plans will then go before the Delphi City Council on Dec. 5.



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