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Rick L. Hinton

Molester given 28 years

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Convicted molester Rick L. Hinton, 42, of rural Camden, was sentenced Friday by Carroll Circuit Judge Donald Currie to 28 years in prison, 10 suspended. Hinton pled guilty to seven Class C felony counts of child molesting on Feb. 17. He was arrested and charged with 13 counts of child molesting Sept. 19, 2005.

Currie listed aggravating factors as a prolonged period of molestation, violation of a position of trust with the victims, and not seeking help before moving to Indiana from Ohio after recognizing he had a problem.

Currie said mitigating factors were

IDEM issues construction permit for sewer district in Carroll County

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Efforts to stem the tide of expansion of the Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District in Carroll County suffered a blow March 20 when the Indiana Department of Environmental Management gave permission for construction in both Phase III and Phase IIIB.

Joe Tierney from design engineers GRW announced the issuance at the March 23 sewer district's board meeting.

In a March 24 telephone interview, IDEM Public Information Officer Bonnie Nash verified the sewer district was issued a permit for Phase III and Phase IIIB in Carroll County. There is no district plan on file for the same area, according to Nash.

Carroll change order to save over \$1,000

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Carroll School Board had a brief business meeting prior to its annual meeting with the students on March 21.

Superintendent John Sayers announced a change in contractor work regarding the septic system for a new concession stand to be built this summer. He said the architect recommends tying into the existing septic at the school. The board approved the modification, resulting in a savings of

\$1,134.

Summer school was approved for math, language arts, swimming lessons, Summer Ag Experience, and driver education. Fees for driver education will be \$325 for Carroll students and \$375 for non-Carroll students. The swim team's summer swim clinic also was approved.

The board OK'd the hiring of five summer workers and life-guards for the summer swim program.

Diana Alter will retire at the end of this school year after 22 years

of teaching in the Carroll school system. Board president Sam Zook said Mrs. Alter will be missed as a teacher in family and consumer sciences and for all her service in FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America).

Board member Barb Payne acknowledged Salin Bank & Trust for its contribution of \$500 to the school's scholarship fund. The bank gives the donation in connection with the Purdue Glee Club concert which it sponsors in the community. This was the fifth

year that the bank has brought the concert to the Carroll auditorium.

The board approved two facility use requests - Cutler Alumni Association to have its annual meeting

April 18 at Carroll Elementary School, and a request from Delphi Community School Corporation to use Carroll's high school track for the Delphi Relays.

The following conference and field trip requests were approved: - Stephanie Dickerson to attend the National Biotechnology Teacher-Leader Program April 6-

12 in Chicago.

- Diana Brown, Kathy Northcutt, Ann Sheagley, and Kathy Shuler to attend the Positive Power with Barbara Pedersen Conference April 13 at Clinton Central Elementary School.

- Susan Shively and Cindy Reinke to attend the FACS State Conference April 18 in Indianapolis.

- Gary Duff, Susan Abbott, and Linda Harrold to take math teams to the HHC Math Contest April

Continued page 5A

Spring is upon us!



Local artist Carol Dickman created this mural for Delphi's Teddy's Emporium as a tribute to the coming of spring. The colorful garden path is for letting the mind wander through the arch and into fragrant flowers and grasses in anticipation of warm weather ahead according to Dickman. Comet photo by Debbie Lowe

At Carroll School Board meeting

Students speak their minds

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Carroll School Board had its annual meeting with students on March 21 at Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School.

Student Council representatives attended the meeting on behalf of the Student Body.

The students had several things on their minds, including problems with the new firewall system, need for more access to the weight room, complaints about the sound system in the gym, and making a second recommendation for a defibrillator at school.

Desiray Simmons brought up the topic of the new firewall system that was installed in December.

Board president Sam Zook said the system was purchased to give more protection to the network, cut down on incoming objectionable emails, and to block students from accessing inappropriate websites.

The problem, according to Simmons and other students, is that some legitimate websites, which students need to access for homework or in-class assignments, are also blocked.

"I've been getting on Ag sites for four years, and now I can't," said Ashley Miller.

Adam Bonner mentioned problems with getting on a stock market simulation site for economics class.

Students said there are also inconsistencies - one day you can get on a site, and the next day you can't.

"We thought the old system was working fine," Simmons said.

The administration and the school board did not think it was working fine. Superintendent John Sayers said \$20,000 was spent on the new system. Sayers and Principal Charles Huckstep said the system has been doing a good job of reducing unwanted emails and blocking inappropriate sites, but it has also blocked some appropriate sites. Sayers said the software blocks categories, not specific sites.

Zook gave an example that sites that offer shopping are supposed to be blocked. So legitimate sites that have things for sale, could be blocked.

Huckstep said students who want a site unblocked should fill out a form, signed by a teacher, indicating whether the request is for a day, two days, a week, etc. He said to put it on his chair, where he would find it. The requests are given to the technology person, Roger Mahrling.

One student said the hassle of reaching Internet sites at school was forcing him to do more research at home. Other students commented that they didn't have the Internet at home or that their home Internet access was too slow. Others said it sometimes takes two days to get a site unblocked.

Sayers said he'll see if the software can be "tweaked." "I'm not sure with this software that it can be fixed," he said.

Kelsey Kennedy and other students talked about the need for all sports to have accessibility to the weight room. There are two certified supervisors for the weight room, Steve Keown and Jeff Hodson. Some students said their coach is not an authorized supervisor and the weight room is not open when they want to use it.

Before the end of the meeting, Keown said he would be available at the weight room on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, beginning at 6:45. The weight room is also open after school from 3:30 to 5 p.m..

Responding to complaints about the sound system in the gym, Athletic Director Scott Ayres acknowledged the problem. He said the gym needs four new speakers and a wider range microphone.

Brian Griffin said students brought up last year about having a defibrillator at school. Board member Barb Payne said a committee looked into that possibility and reported to the board. She said the

Continued page 5A

County deputies vie for sheriff's position

Comet staff report

Carroll County Deputies Tony Burns and John Chapman are opposing each other in the May primary election. They

each want to be the Republican party's candidate for county sheriff.

Both Chapman and Burns are graduates of Delphi Community High School, have resided in Carroll County

for most of their lives, and are currently raising families here. They both have nearly 20 years experience on the department and have both served as chief deputy -Chapman for the past

three years and Burns for the three

years before that. And, both Burns and Chapman agree that changes need to be made in the sheriff's department.

The two candidates sat down last week for an interview with the Comet. They were each asked the same questions. To see how their responses differed, read the following Q and A.

"I'm personally committed to the community," said Tony Burns, Republican candidate for county sheriff. "I see the need for change and that is what has influenced my decision to run for sheriff."

If elected sheriff, what do you see as your most important role?

Leadership was Burns's reply. "The sheriff needs to be a community leader and provide strong leadership to the department and to the citizens who put him in office. He also needs to be held accountable by the taxpayers."

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing you if you are elected sheriff?

"The biggest challenge is creating a working partnership with the community to provide the best public service that we can," said

Burns. "There are areas that need improved upon."

He added that once some of those community needs are identified, then police need to be responsive to those concerns.

"Another challenge would be budgetary issues," he said. "We need to really work with the county council on controlling the sheriff's operating budget."

What qualities do you possess that you believe will make you a good sheriff?

"My personal belief is that even in law enforcement you always

have to treat people with respect and dignity and treat them like you would want to be treated under the same circumstances. I've always tried to treat people that way. I would demand that any officer working under me would also treat the public that way."

He said the sheriff has to have the highest level of integrity, be very professional, and be accessible to the public. "In being accessible, I believe in an open door policy and that is exactly

Continued page 8A



Carroll County Republican Primary Sheriff's Race



Burns



Chapman

John Chapman said he is campaigning for county sheriff on an action plan that includes: Accountability, Competence, Teamwork, Integrity, Openness, No Frills. He said that's what a sheriff needs to be and

"that's what I will be if I'm elected sheriff."

If elected sheriff, what do you see as your most important role?

Chapman replied, "Being seen in the community. The sheriff should always be open and available to talk to the public when

needed."

He also believes that programs are needed that will benefit the whole county. Currently, the jail

is starting a program for the inmates and their families using the jail chaplains. The objective is that when the inmate gets out of jail, there will be a support group for him/her and their family.

Chapman would also like to start road crews. He said there is money available to have people in the jail pick up trash in the side ditches, help

clean-up the county parks and after the county fair.

"If there's painting that needs to be done, sticks that need to be picked up, mowing, why not get these guys out of jail to make things look nice and attractive," said Chapman. "It benefits the inmates because they will be outside working, there will be less stress for them. We're solving problems in the jail and helping out the community."

Another program he would like to see implemented is resource officers in the county schools. A resource officer would be a liaison between the local police department and school.

"The officer would actually be at the school, talking to students,

Continued page 8A

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