



## Sedate debate

*Republicans keep the gloves on and keep it civil*

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

There were no surprises, no name calling and no startling revelations when Carroll County Republicans debated on April 18 in the Little Theatre at Delphi high school.

Hosted by Carroll County's Republican Party, the event, according to organizers, was intended to provide voters with the opportunity to make a more educated voting decision in the May 2 primary.

"The debate concept gives voters a

chance to hear what the candidates have to say in more detail," organizer Darrell Routh explained in a *Comet* interview prior to the debate. "It's just a good way to get more education out to the voters."

Candidates were given the opportunity to state their respective platforms and to explain why each would serve the citizens of Carroll County better than their opponent to approximately 120 audience members.

Each candidate chose to talk about their own strong points and minimize their opponents' weaknesses however.

Sheriff candidate Tony Burns said about opponent John Chapman, "I've known John since high school. I wasn't going to bash him. That's not what the debate was for."

Burns said that if he becomes the next county sheriff he wants John to be part of his team.

Chapman, explaining he didn't want to come across as arrogant said, "There has been so much negative printed and said about the sheriff's department that I didn't want any more of that in the public eye."

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## Primary voters may be deciding sheriff, prosecutor

Comet staff report

Carroll County voters may well be choosing their new sheriff and prosecuting attorney at Tuesday's primary; that is, if the Democratic Party does not find opponents who will significantly challenge them this fall in this Republican-dominated county.

The polls will be open Tuesday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Republican candidates for county sheriff are deputies Tony Burns and John Chapman, both of Delphi. No candidate filed from the Democratic Party.

That is also the case for county prosecuting attorney. Incumbent Robert Ives, Flora, is being challenged by Trisha Thompson, Delphi. They are both Republicans.

At a candidate debate last week in Delphi, Chapman and Burns disagreed on whether the county needs a new jail facility. "Our jail has problems," Chapman said. "There is no maintenance schedule." He believes building a new facility is the answer.

Burns agreed the current building has inadequacies but he wants to add on to the east side of the jail and suggests off-site or satellite office solutions.

"I'm committed to the community," he said. He also stressed the need for the sheriff to be accessible and to have peoples' trust.

Chapman said the sheriff's job "is most important." He believes it's time for that department to start moving forward.

When asked what the prosecutor's two biggest challenges are, Thompson replied methamphetamine and child abuse. Ives responded, "the mass of cases" and not taking on too much non-prosecutor business.

Ives said, "I'm always ready to discuss issues and matters."

Thompson believes, "It's time for a change."

For State Representative District 24, Republican Richard "Rick" Eller, Galveston, is challenging Republican incumbent Richard W. "Rich" McClain, Logansport. There is no Democratic candidate. District 24 includes all of Carroll County.

At the federal level, Republican incumbent Chris Chocola, Bristol, is being challenged by Tony Zirkle, South Bend, for U.S. Representative District 2. District 2 includes all of Carroll County.

Seeking the Democratic nomination for U.S. Representative District 2 are Joe Donnelly, Granger, and Steve Francis, South Bend.

Running unopposed for county offices on the Republican ballot are Don Currie, Delphi, Circuit Court judge; Beth L. Myers (incumbent), Delphi, auditor; Jane Brewington (incumbent), Flora, treasurer; Doris L. McLeland (incumbent), Delphi, assessor; Loren T. Hylton (incumbent), commissioner District 1.

Republican candidates unopposed for county council seats are: Ronald "Ron" Slavens, Idaville, District 1; Jerry L. Hendress (incumbent), Camden, District 2; Ann Brown (incumbent), Flora, District 3; Nancy S. Cripe (incumbent), Delphi, District 4.

Running unopposed for county treasurer on the Democratic ballot is Pamela J. Mansfield, Brookston.

### School boards

School board elections take place

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## Local biofuel plant takes off

By Jennifer Archibald  
Staff writer

Carroll County has an up-and-running biodiesel plant.

Called Heartland Biofuel, it is located two and a half miles west of Flora, off State Road 18.

The owner, Titus Filbrun, believes it is the first biodiesel plant in Indiana to actually have a product. He said a few others have been built, but are not operating yet.

The Flora plant produces B100, or 100% biodiesel. Its first customer, earlier this month, was Countrymark Cooperative, headquartered in Indianapolis. Countrymark supplies local co-ops, and blends 2% biodiesel in all its diesel fuel.

Heartland Biofuel has sold five semi-loads so far, or a total of about 35,000 gallons.

The plant was built last August, testing started in October, and production began this year in February.

The operation runs 10 hours a day and produces three batches or 1,500 gallons daily. Production is semi-automated, but one of Filbrun's goals is to become fully automated.

Filbrun, who has an engineering background, set up the operation, learned the chemistry involved, and designed the equipment. Then he turned over the running of the plant to Ron Fritz, plant manager, and Rodney Hufford, a high school senior who comes in after the first shift.

Larger biodiesel plants have sought the help of the government and engineering firms, which Filbrun says has slowed them down.

"I'm just kind of out here on my own," he said.

He chose to figure everything out himself, both for cost-savings and expediency.

He had an architect design the building, because of required building codes, but he and Fritz did the wiring and plumbing. Some of the plumbing is underground.

He said the whole operation has turned out to be more complex than he had originally thought.

"I've learned what I ought to do," he said. "The trick is making the equipment do what you want it to do."

Filbrun said if he was producing biodiesel for his own use or for off-road, the process would be easier and faster, but there are strict standards if the product is to be sold commercially.

"We tested 15 batches until we got where we were supposed to be," he said.

The ingredients they use are food grade soybean oil, methanol, and a catalyst.

"A fatty acid (soybean oil) is mixed with an alcohol (methanol)," he explained.

The process involves heat, pressure, multiple reactions, and fil-



Filbrun



Fritz

tering. The finished product is methyl esters, with a byproduct of glycerol. Filbrun said there is a low market price for glycerol, used to make soap and other products, because it is so common.

Filbrun said there is no wastewater, emissions are low, and non-hazardous solid waste from the filtering process is taken to

the landfill.

To meet EPA, ASTM, and Biodiesel Board standards, Filbrun said the biofuel is tested for 13 different specifications. They currently are using an outside lab, but do have some lab equipment of their own.

Filbrun said he wanted to get in on biofuels early. He said when the big plants are in full swing, his business could curtail, but by then, he predicts there will be more demand.

Filbrun said he has always been interested in alternative energy.

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### Processing room

The above photo shows the processing room for glycerol separation in the Heartland Biofuel plant near Flora. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

## Council holds the line on tax increase

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

After pausing to research the impact of the loss of inventory tax and weigh all available data, including specific taxpayer information, Carroll County Council decided to stay the course on the local Economic Development Income Tax rate for the time being.

"I think it would be the best thing for the county," council

member Jerry Hendress stated.

At the Friday morning meeting council member Steve Ashby explained the loss of the inventory tax may be offset by the increase of the homestead exemption, at least for the present.

The decision was made by consensus. According to county attorney Barry Emerson, no vote was needed because a new tax rate was not advertised.

Other news

In a six-to-one vote, the council approved use of the sheriff's commissary fund for YMCA memberships for road deputies. Council member Carl Abbott voted against the action. Sheriff Dennis Randle was not present to discuss the matter.

County auditor Beth Myers reported \$11,000 received from an insurance payment and deposited into Randle's commissary fund was transferred into county general as requested by

the council.

Council member Ann Brown expressed concern the memberships, which could be construed as an addition to the workers' benefit package, might be subject to income tax.

Emerson said because the money was coming out of a fund that was in the sole control of the sheriff, Randle was responsible for providing 1099s to the benefit recipients. Those workers would be responsible for report-

ing the income to the IRS.

County assessor Doris McLeland was granted permission to replace the first deputy in her office.

County clerk Laura Sterrett made a second request to hire a part-time clerical person. She was asked in January by the council to do without the position for the first quarter of 2006 and evaluate the level of need.

"We're just keeping our heads

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