



Survivors' walk

Sixty cancer survivors released balloons and walked the first lap at the Carroll County Relay for Life Friday evening. A total of 650 people participated in the two-day event to help in the fight against cancer. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

Relay for Life raises \$33,000

Comet staff report

Carroll County Relay for Life raised \$33,006 for the American Cancer Society.

There were 26 teams and approximately 650 total participants in this year's event. It was held last Friday and Saturday at the Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School track.

Sixty individuals took part in the Survivors' Walk.

The three teams that raised the most money were Sand

Ridge Bank, \$5,827; St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center, \$4002; and Burlington Volunteer Fire Department, \$3,227.

The seven contestants in the "Miss"ter Relay contest raised a total of \$1,487. Bob Mills as "Miss Demeanor" was the winner, collecting \$493. Other contestants were Roger Reneau, Alan Brower, Adam Deaton, Shane Brooks, Sean Smith, and Dan Calvin.

Four team campsite awards

were given: Best Campsite, St. Elizabeth Healthcare; Honorable Mention, Burlington Volunteer Fire Department; Most Team Spirit, Carroll Cheer Team; Rookie Team of the Year, Abbott Real Estate.

One of the activities on Saturday was a tug of war, with local fire departments as opponents. The champion team was the Burlington VFD.

There were people on the track at all times Friday night and Saturday morning. Kyle

Wallace won for Most Laps Walked/Run. His total was 125 laps or 31.25 miles.

This was the fifth year for the Carroll County Relay for Life. Members of the committee were Tina Miller, chairman; Karen Guckien, Cindy Michael, Shawna

Dreadfulwater, Jennifer Prater, Becky Downham, Tammy Shires, Lisa Morrow, and the American Cancer Society, Kokomo office, which serves Carroll County.

Up they go!

Council to raise property tax rate

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

County officials are faced with an out-dated jail facility not properly maintained over the years and they say the money needed to do anything more than routine maintenance is not in the budget. To address the problem, Carroll County Council voted to establish a cumulative capital development fund. And then they voted to raise property taxes to get money for the fund.

"It's hard to find new money," said financial consultant Steve Meno of Fifth Third Securities, Inc. of Indianapolis at the Tuesday morning meeting.

After asking the council if they wanted to generate additional revenue, Meno said raising property taxes to the maximum amount allowed by law would generate approximately \$150,000 more each year than currently assessed.

Meno advised the timing was right for the money to begin flowing into the county coffers at the beginning of 2007, if the tax increase was approved immediately.

"We're going to have an expense for the jail no matter what we do," council president Rob Baker said.

Meno said after the proposed increase is published, probably in late August, the public would have 30 days to object.

The action will become effective after the 30-day objection time, if there are less than 50 objections.

Objections are to be filed with county auditor Beth Myers.

Jail Facility

Bill Shepler of PMSI Inc. opened the discussion about jail needs by stating that he was present to answer questions. Council members had many questions, concerns and comments about

the proposed project.

Council member Jerry Hendress stressed the importance of determining the appropriate facility-size needed for the county. He suggested that only then could decisions be made as to concept and other issues.

Sheriff Dennis Randle stated the jail housed 34 detainees Monday night. He indicated that was full capacity and suggested increasing the number of beds to 80.

"I think building an 80-bed jail would be over-building," council member Steve Ashby stated.

Randle further reported 80 percent of Monday night's population was un-sentenced, noting the importance of involving judges and the prosecutor in the planning process.

Shepler said the firm was not ready to make a formal recommendation because a walk-through of the current facility was scheduled for the week of Aug. 8. He said important planning information was needed from that before he could produce a viable recommendation.

"I don't need 10 meetings - let's just get going," council member Carl Abbott stated.

Ashby registered concern about support costs such as personnel when deciding to build or remodel for more bed space. He said if the new facility was at 80 percent capacity, which PMSI recommends reaching, the building would need to be staffed and have utilities at 100 percent.

"I want numbers to work with," Baker said.

"It's never going to be any cheaper than now - no matter what we do," sheriff-elect Sgt. Tony Burns said.

Shepler said he would provide models of a new facility and a renovated facility at the next meeting. However, he refused to

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DCSC hires principal

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

In what could be described as one of the shortest Delphi Community School Corporation Board of Trustees' meetings ever held, one of the most important corporation appointments was made.

At the Monday night meeting, former Twin Lakes High School Assistant Principal Barry Stone was named Delphi's high school principal, replacing Keith Brakel.

Stone said he, his wife and two children have a Monticello address, but he is "only 13 miles" from his new building. He received a set of keys for the building from board president Robert Resler after the meeting.

Stone is a 1992 graduate of Purdue University and a 2001 graduate of Oakland City University with a master's degree in teaching. He was assistant principal at TLSC four years.

He said he knows the Delphi community to be a "good community" and said the corporation teachers are "good leaders."

Stone will begin his new job Aug. 1 and will spend the first two weeks "getting prepared" for the first student-day of school.

"I consider myself the leader of the building," he said. "But I don't think of myself as the boss."

Mailing label goes here



Stone

He said he plans to implement new programs at the school to engage parents and the community with students and their activities.

He stated he believes communication is one of the most important things for a principal to put into practice.

"My door is always open," he said. "I'll always listen."

Other business

The board accepted the resignation of middle school principal Joanne Allard, contingent upon the Logansport School Corporation Board of Trustees offering her a contract at their Monday night meeting.

Board president Robert Resler noted Allard is still under contract with DCSC and will retain her current position in the event of not moving to Logansport.

Dr. Thomas Brodar of Delphi asked the board to consider adopting an adult education policy to allow for continuous weekly evening classes.

"Currently I don't feel our corporation addresses the adult education needs in the community," he said.

Brodar advised he would like to offer a grief recovery course for adults in a non-sectarian environment, but is not able to use a school corporation facility due to the present usage policy as it relates to events and insurance.

Resler said that under the current policy those using the facility must provide a certificate of insurance. He also noted that

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Community involvement could benefit local clinic

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Dr. Brian Doggett learned two months ago that his medical clinic on Armory Road was on Arnett Clinic's chopping block. He began a campaign to change the course of action and save his practice.

When members of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, the Delphi Chamber of Commerce, and other community members heard of the near certainty of the clinic closing, they joined the effort to prevent the loss to the community.

"This is about protecting the services we need (in our community)," acting county chamber president Dick Bradshaw said at that time.

Putting action to their words, a group of concerned business and community leaders came together to work with Arnett personnel, including Doggett, to reach a workable solution.

The last meeting was July 20 and included Doggett, Dr. Michael Skehan, president of board of directors for Arnett Health Systems, three county council members, one county commissioner, and Delphi Mayor Lee Hoard.

"We see this as a community problem," Bradshaw said. "We are looking at the needs of the county for the next four to five years."

"We need to understand there are a lot of businesses in Delphi that are struggling," Delphi



The doctor is in

Arnett's Dr. Brian Doggett sits in his office at the clinic on Armory Road and wonders how much longer he will be there. Concerned community members have intervened with Arnett's board of directors to stave off closing of the Delphi clinic. Comet photo by Debbie Lowe

chamber president Krista Watson said. "We need to encourage growth. I don't have all the answers, but this concerns me a great deal."

Watson said although the focus of current group talks is the clinic, other issues are discussed as well.

"The focus is on the clinic because Dr. Doggett asked for help," she said. "But we are

year. Skehan explained the number is derived from a financial formula of cost sharing used to examine the financial health of all Arnett clinics. The total comes not only from direct patient business at the Armory Road facility, but also from support services provided by Arnett Health Systems to the clinic.

Skehan said Arnett's goal is to make the clinic viable by improving the business model

to make the office busier. This will be done by offering more patient hours, making staffing changes, and reviewing monthly financial statements in detail.

Skehan said another problem for many rural clinics is a perception among patients and community members that a specialist, rather than family practitioner, is needed for a variety of conditions. He said the family doctor is very capable to treat a variety of conditions and will make referrals to specialists, if indicated.

Doggett said he is board certified and must successfully complete 150 hours of continuing education every five years and undergo a written examination every six years.

"He is a specialist," Skehan said of Doggett. "People just don't recognize it's a board that certifies and re-tests his capabilities."

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Skehan

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