

Heating bills projected to decline this winter

Comet staff report

If the Midwest sees normal temperatures this winter, home heating bills could decrease by as much as 30 percent, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) announced Tuesday.

The decrease can be attributed to a number of factors. The price of natural gas on the wholesale market has fallen precipitously due to last winter's warmer-than-normal temperatures and this year's quiet hurricane season in the Gulf of Mexico, where much of the nation's natural gas is pro-

duced.

Last winter was one of the warmest on record and the average heating bill for a NIPSCO customer last January was \$187. If temperatures are normal in the Midwest this winter, the cost to heat a home this January could be approximately \$115. If temperatures are colder than last winter, the cost to heat a home most likely will be higher as customers will be consuming more gas. Over the entire winter heating season - Nov. 1 to March 31 - the average residential customer could pay approximately \$600 to heat their home, which represents a

30 percent decrease when compared to the same period last winter.

Earlier this year, NIPSCO submitted a plan with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) to renew its Winter Warmth program, which has directed more than \$10 million in assistance to 24,000 low-income customers. In addition, NIPSCO is partnering with community groups across its service area to host an Energy Fair. The first Energy Fair will be held in partnership with the Lake County Energy Task Force in Gary.

Continuing feature

Staying Connected

E-Mail from those serving our country

United States Air Force Senior Airman Zachari Ayres has been stationed in Mosul, Iraq for approximately 8 months. Ayres is a 2003 graduate of Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School. He is the son of Kirk and Chrystal Ayres and the grandson of Meredith and Sharon Ayres, all of Flora.

Ayres writes...

I would like to thank all the people who pray for me everyday, my brothers, Nick and Drew, and my little sis, Chami. I especially would like to thank my mom and dad for their support and my grandparents. Thanks to the Flora doctor's office for sending all those gift boxes. All the guys have enjoyed them and appreciated them greatly and so have I. I know everyone's prayers have helped greatly.

I've been on nearly 100 convoy missions as a .50 cal. gunner and my unit has been through a lot of tough times, but God always gets us through. We have not had any casualties on any of our missions and I know it's only because of the grace of God and his hand of protection upon us. We went on a humanitarian mission on one of our convoys and visited a small village in the far north. We passed out clothes and toys to some of the kids that live up there. They looked at us like we were superheroes to them. We also played a little soccer with them and a few other games. You'll see some of the kids in the picture that I sent. I just wanted



to say that so everyone knows that not everything that happens here is bad.

I have to say the food here is great. We have several chow halls on our base and they all have really surprised me. We have two-person rooms to sleep in with air conditioning. They have a nice gym and a running track nearby. We also have access to Internet and phones. It's definitely not the tough living it used to be.

The temperature is cooling off here now. It's been between 100

and 105 most of the time.

I am very happy to be serving my country and very proud to be in the United States Air Force. I wouldn't choose to do anything else if I could.

The one thing I miss most about home is my family. I thank you once again for all of your support and prayers.

I also want to say thanks to all my other brothers and sisters serving in the U.S. military and their families. God bless you. I'll be home soon, mom. Don't worry!

United Fund goal set at \$86,000

Comet staff report

Carroll County United fund committee recently held its organizational meeting for the 2006-2007 fundraising campaign.

The budget was set at \$86,000 with funds going to the following agencies: Carroll County Special Olympics, Carroll County Food Pantry, Genesis Alternative School, Tribal Trails Girl Scouts, Food Finders Food Bank, Family Health Clinic of Carroll County, ARC of Carroll County, Salvation

Army, Carroll County YMCA, Sagamore Council of Boys Scouts, Carroll County Cancer Association, Carroll County Senior & Family Services, and Junior Achievement.

Officers elected were: James Huffer, president; Jim Hardeson, vice president; Joretta Tinsman, secretary; Jean Ann Randle, treasurer; and Dennis Randle, drive chairman.

John Klepinger, who has served as treasurer for more than 50 years, decided to step down.

"John's wisdom and advice will be missed on this board," said Huffer.

Donations in support of the United Fund agencies can be sent to: 102 S. Union St., Delphi, IN 46923.

Carroll County at the Crossroads Community Forum

Mark your calendars to join other county leaders for a stimulating discussion on the economic future of Carroll County. The new Carroll County tourism booklets will be distributed and Leadership Carroll County 2007 will be launched along with other brief up-dates on accomplishments of the Carroll County at the Crossroads program.

Building a Dynamic Economic Future for Carroll County
Presented By:

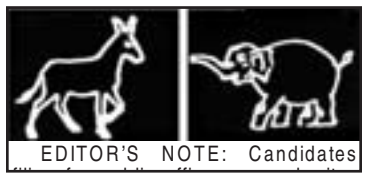


Daryl Smith
Executive Director, Carroll County Economic Development Corporation



Keith Chandler
Executive Director, Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

Tuesday, October 17, 2006
Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center
Delphi
7:00 - 8:30 PM



Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner is Saturday

Former Senator Birch Bayh will attend the Democratic Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner at the Camden Community Building Oct. 14 at 6 p.m. For information, call Dick Roe at (765) 564-3374.

Republicans to host 'Meet the Candidates'

The October meeting of the Carroll County Republican Women will be replaced with a special "Meet the Candidates" night on Monday at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to gather at Republican Headquarters, located at 113 West Franklin St., Delphi, to meet the Republican candidates.



'The Pied Piper' Carroll Elementary School and The Missoula Children's Theater presented "The Pied Piper" last Saturday at the school. The Pied Piper was played by Nicole Bradford, pictured. Also shown are some of the townsfolk, who are visibly shaken by the rats who have invaded the town. The play was funded by a grant from the Indiana Arts Commission through the Tippecanoe Arts Federation, along with the corporation's Advanced Learning Program and ticket sales. Comet photos by Jennifer Archibald

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 <p>SAVE \$5.00 EA</p> <p>8 Inch, In The Bakery</p> <p>Double Layer Coconut Cake</p> <p>\$5.99 ea</p>	 <p>EXTRA SAVINGS EVERYDAY</p> <p>Golden Ripe</p> <p>Dole Bananas</p> <p>3/\$1 lbs</p>	
 <p>SAVE \$5.00 EA</p> <p>16-28 oz jar, Selected Varieties</p> <p>Ragu Pasta Sauce</p> <p>99¢ Limit 5</p>	 <p>SAVE UP TO \$9.16 ON 4</p> <p>25.5 oz box Raisin Bran, 19.7 oz box Frost Loops, 18 oz box Rice Krispies or Big Size Frosted Mini-Wheats</p> <p>Kellogg's Cereal</p> <p>4/\$10</p>	 <p>EXTRA SAVINGS EVERYDAY</p> <p>dozen</p> <p>IGA Large Eggs</p> <p>2/\$1 LIMIT 2</p>
 <p>gallon</p> <p>Prairie Farms Chocolate Milk</p> <p>\$2.59</p>	 <p>16 oz ctn</p> <p>Prairie Farms Sour Cream</p> <p>2/\$3</p>	

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