



**Commissioners adorn courthouse grounds**

County commissioners expended economic development income tax funds to purchase a new flag pole for the courthouse. Suggested by Loren Hylton, the commissioners decided to replace the old pole due to its deterioration. "We did have one, but it was in dire need of a facelift," Hylton said. "This new pole helps beautify the courthouse lawn and is a great way to honor the many county residents who sacrificed even themselves for us." Hylton said the commissioners are planning to add seasonal and patriotic banners to light poles around the courthouse in coming months. Comet photo by Kevin Schnepf

# School loan to pay for roof, pool maintenance

By Jennifer Archibald  
Staff writer

Carroll School Board authorized a \$450,000 bank loan for the Debt Service Fund at a regular meeting Nov. 7.

The purpose of the loan was not stated at the meeting, but when asked later, Superintendent John Sayers said it will be used for roof and swimming pool repairs next year.

Sayers said it is a short-term loan with pay-off dates in July 2007 (\$225,000) and January 2008 (\$225,000).

Sayers reported that further development of the new soccer/softball area, such as dugouts and press box, will now likely be a spring project.

Lindsey Muinzer has been hired as a substitute Spanish teacher for second semester.

Other personnel announced were: Ladd Kitchel, junior high wrestling coach; Kim Bordner, sixth grade cheerleading coach; Shana Bordner, sixth grade volunteer assistant cheerleading coach; Tammy Wickersham, fifth grade cheerleading coach; Deanna Herr, fifth grade volunteer assistant cheerleading coach; and Chase Richardson, volunteer varsity swim coach.

Junior-senior high school principal Charles Huckstep announced that the fall sports team having the highest grade point average was cross country (girls and boys) with a 3.43. The second highest was girls' golf with a GPA of 3.40.

Elementary principal Carolyn O'Connell reported that Caring Connection, which matches community volunteers with students, has started, with 32 students involved. She told about recent events including Grandparents Day, Red Ribbon Week led by guidance counselor Amy Hickson, and Fire Safety Week. The Flora VFD sponsored a fire safety contest, with the winning student receiving a DVD player. Students will compete in a spelling bee at Hillcrest on Nov. 16.

Cougar Blues' fundraising request was approved. The singing group will have two paid performances, on Dec. 5 and Dec. 12, in addition to their annual Feast on Dec. 3.

FFA National Convention participants reported on the convention sessions and the awards won in the National Agriscience Fair. The Carroll chapter is ranked in the top three percent of chapters nationwide.

The following conference and field trip requests were approved:

✓ Steve and Melissa Keown to take FFA students to Area Crops, Forestry, and Entomology Contest Nov. 15 at Cass County Fairgrounds.

✓ Charles Huckstep, Indiana Association of School Principals' Fall Conference Nov. 19-21 in Indianapolis.

✓ Melissa Keown, AP Environmental Science Workshop Nov. 21 at Butler University.

✓ Kathy Shuler and Jill Kressley, "Leveling Texts: How, When & Why" Conference Nov. 29 in Lafayette.

Kathy Sanders, Communities Aligned Toward Children's Health, Nov. 30 in Indianapolis.

✓ Don Pettit, Indiana Music Educators State Convention Jan. 18-20 in Indianapolis.

✓ Scot Collins, Careers 2007 Conference Jan. 29-31 in Madison, Wis.

Board president Sam Zook announced that an executive session would be held after the meeting to discuss collective bargaining.

The next regular board meeting will be Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Administration Building.

The meeting adjourned without the usual question posed to the audience, "Is there any other business to come before this board?"

# County rep voices concern about TLRSD service rates

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

Wayne Garrison, Carroll County's representative to the Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District Board of Directors said he intends to make his voice heard at board meetings. He voted against passing the proposed rate ordinance on second reading and adoption at the Oct. 12 board meeting.

Garrison was appointed approximately nine months ago by commissioners but has yet to be approved for the position by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. He said he isn't going to let that stop him from providing input and voting his conscience.

"I do not feel the ordinance was fair to all of the service areas," he said as explanation for his no-vote. "I think the increases were a little high in some areas. It just didn't feel right to me."

Garrison did not take issue with the rate proposed for Carroll County residents in Phase IIIB. He expressed conflicted emotions about the rate hike for other areas resulting in keeping Phase IIIB rates lower than they would have been without the hike.

"What it all works towards is to balance the rates across the service

areas," he said. "I've got some issues with it, but I feel the rate increase was needed."

Garrison voted to pay a bill for \$14,525 for work in Carroll County on the site of the proposed wastewater treatment plant on the Rattle Snake Creek at last Thursday night's meeting.

In another matter, Garrison suggested the board hire a person to record the minutes of the meeting. He expressed concern about the ability of the group's elected secretary to be an active participant in meetings when he is busy trying to record the board's activity.

The suggestion was met with acceptance. Board consensus was to flex time for an office worker to attend the meetings for that purpose.

**Phase IIIB construction**

Joe Tierney of GRW engineering firm reported the funding application, under scrutiny by the Office of Rural Development for several months,

was forwarded to Washington D.C. Oct. 13 for approval. He said the federal approval process takes from 90 to 180 days.

Tierney said the project is anticipated to be bid out next spring which will bring the initiation of the construction process.

When construction begins, Carroll County customers in Phase IIIB will begin paying 50 percent of the monthly rate until the time of connection, according to Garrison. He said the construction time can last two years while customers pay half-bills. He will encourage the board not to allow the construction period last that long.

"I don't want to see this drag on like it has in some other service areas," he said. "I expect constant progress to completion."

The next sewer district board meeting will be Dec. 14. The board will meet one time in December due to the holiday schedule.

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