

# Accused graffiti painter pleads not guilty

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

Jose Torres, the only person arrested and charged with spray-painting graffiti on several locations in Delphi, appeared before Carroll Superior Court Judge Jeffrey Smith Thursday night.

Smith read the details of Counts 1 through 16. Torres said he understood the charges against him.

Torres told the judge he was not working and not going to



Torres

school since the graffiti painting incident in mid-January. He said he lived with his parents and he was being home schooled. Torres said he owned no property or vehicles. When asked if he could afford legal counsel, Torres said he could not. Smith entered a plea of not guilty for Torres and appointed Lafayette attorney Steven Knecht to represent him as a public defender.

Torres' trial is scheduled for March 26 at 3 p.m.

# Board of works decides water bills

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

When the extremely cold weather hit the area approximately two weeks ago, many Delphi residents experienced frozen water pipes and meters. Water department employees worked long hours helping customers understand the nature of their problems. If the water meter was frozen, they thawed it out. Everyone was told to stream water to prevent a re-occurrence.

Now the weather is warmer, for the most part, March is just around the corner, but residents may still have two questions; when should the water be streamed in the future to prevent freezing, and how much will they be charged for the extra water usage.

Delphi Board of Works answered both questions at the Feb. 21 evening meeting. Board members voted to average the last three months water

usage to determine the amount owed for February and provided guidelines for future streaming.

The water bill just received was already averaged because meters could not be read to calculate water usage. Therefore, residents will be paying the same amount for two months before getting back on schedule with an actual usage charge.

Water department superintendent Gary Hathaway advised Delphi residents to use common sense when deciding to stream water or not to prevent freezing. He recommends taking action when temperatures stay well below freezing for extended periods of time.

Those with questions about their bills are encouraged to call clerk/treasurer Janice Roe at (765) 564-2097. For clarification about when to run faucet water, call the water department at 564-3944.

The next meeting will be March 5 at 6:30 p.m.

# Sheriff's sergeant completes field training

Comet staff report

Sgt. Dennis Randle, 26-year veteran with the Carroll County Sheriff's Office, completed a Field Training Officer course Feb. 16. The forty-hour course was held at the Brownsburg Police Department and sponsored by the Indiana chapter of the National Association of FTOs.

The course included topics about identifying liability issues, understanding performance evaluations, completing daily obser-

vation reports, problem solving techniques and other field training objectives. Officers from throughout Indiana attended.

"As a Field Training Officer, Sgt. Randle will be responsible to certify that new recruits are ready to go out and work by themselves," explained sheriff Tony Burns. "We've never had FTOs before. My plan is for both sergeants, Randle and Mark Back, to be able to do independent evaluations of new road troops when they finish training."

# Artist applications available for Delphi art show

Comet staff report

The Delphi Chapter of Tri Kappa Sorority and the Delphi Community School Corporation invites local artists to exhibit their artwork at their upcoming 2007 show. The dates of the show are Sunday, May 6, from 1:30-4:30 p.m. and Monday, May 7, through Thursday, May 10, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The committee will accept one original work from each local artist, provided the piece is registered, framed and wired for hanging. Saw tooth hangers are not acceptable and cannot be used.

Each piece exhibited needs to include the information listed below. Fill out the accompanying form and return the entry application to the Delphi Public Library desk

no later than April 3.

Artwork should be delivered to Delphi Community High School on May 3 after 8 a.m. and before 3:30 p.m.

Artwork should be picked up at DCHS on May 11 before 3 p.m.

If a piece is for sale and the item is sold during the week, 30% of the sale price is retained by the school for the Arts In Education Enrichment Residencies.

A special Purchase Award Reception is planned for May 5, beginning at 6 p.m. This is an evening showing of the exhibit with refreshments when invited guests from the public audience come to look at the work displayed, with the option to purchase any pieces offered for sale.

# Police agencies work in unison to solve Flora crime

Comet staff report

The Flora Police Department, working in conjunction with the Carroll County Sheriff's Office, has completed a month-long burglary investigation into a Flora burglary. The effort re-



Shelley



Robertson

Flora, were arrested Feb. 16 and charged with one count

# Hoosiers encouraged to be prepared for severe weather

Comet staff report

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is encouraging all Hoosiers to take advantage of Severe Weather Preparedness Week March 4-10 by making sure they are ready for the possibility of a weather-related disaster or emergency.

Individuals and households are urged to create an Emergency Supply Kit that will allow them to be self-sustaining for at least three days if necessary. This kit should include items like water, non-perishable food, battery-powered ra-

dios, flashlights, and medications.

A Family Emergency Plan should also be developed ahead of time so everyone in a household will know how to respond during a severe weather event. This plan should address issues such as how to contact each other during or after an emergency and where to meet if an evacuation is necessary.

More information on creating an Emergency Supply Kit and developing a Family Emergency Plan can be found on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's preparedness Web site at www.ready.gov.

# Camden learns it has no emergency shelter

Comet staff report

Recent snow storms and power outages have Camden officials on notice that the town has no emergency shelter.

Carroll County Emergency Management Director Justin Darling said that the county does not have an emergency plan for shelter at Camden.

At a meeting Feb. 21, Camden Town Council discussed purchasing a portable generator that could be hooked up for power at the community building and/or fire station for shelter. Neither building is currently wired for a generator.

The town has a generator but it is for the water tower and lift station.

Camden's representative to the Emergency Management committee, Richard Fite, will be asked to investigate whether a grant is available to help with the cost of a generator.

The council also agreed to discuss the situation with the township advisory board.

Council President Pete Wagoner voiced his frustration with Duke Energy concerning the recent power outages. He said that since the conversion from Cinergy to Duke Energy, the power is down longer and communication is non-existent between the town and the company.

Renewed efforts to improve

the appearance of the town are underway with enforcement of the town's nuisance ordinance. Twenty-nine letters were recently mailed out concerning vehicle violations and "we've had excellent response," said clerk-treasurer Pat Casserly. "We're seeking people's cooperation without issuing citations."

Casserly said her office is keeping a ledger on correspondence with these property owners. Eight have already completed action on their property, while 16 are in progress of getting into compliance, she said.

The Council will give property owners until March 13 to meet requirements before citations will be issued and penalties imposed.

Town marshal John Chapman is overseeing the ordinance crackdown. Other provisions of the ordinance will be addressed in the near future.

Wagoner reported on the recent joint meeting held between the council and Jackson Township Advisory Board. He said that discussion centered on items of mutual interest such as fire protection, cemetery, and park. They also discussed the school, the town's upcoming 175th anniversary celebration, SR 75 extension, and trending.

Wagoner said the meeting proved useful and the two groups will meet again in June.

Wagoner also said that the town is working as a facilitator to bring Bankcard Systems and a local business together to provide ATM service 24 hours a day.

Jeff Sieber reported on the progress of the 175th anniversary celebration committee. He said they are working on entertainment and a horse pull for Saturday night. A donation was received from TDS that has been earmarked to purchase memorabilia to sell during the celebration.

Melissa Red Elk reported on plans for the Fall Festival that will be Sept. 8 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. A new contest will be Camden's Golden Star for those ages

each of burglary, a class C felony. The two men are accused of gaining entry into the Flora Mara Mart convenience store Jan. 24, and taking money and cigarettes. Flora Police Chief Paul Redmon, officer Randy Larimore and Det. Steve Mullin with the sheriff's office conducted the investigation.

Both crime suspects appeared in Carroll Circuit Court Feb. 19, pled not guilty and were appointed public defenders. Robertson bonded out of the Carroll County Jail with a \$10,000 bond. Shelley remains incarcerated.

"Through continued team efforts involving the community and the sheriff's office, we were able to successfully bring this case to a conclusion," Redmon said. "We want residents and businesses to feel confident that if they fall victim to a crime, we will exhaust our resources to complete these investigations. The county and town law enforcement agencies have an excellent working relationship which was evident during this investigation."

Omnibus hearings for both men are scheduled for April 4 at 9 a.m.



Early bird beats the worm

A robin huddles on a frosty branch near Delphi Feb. 21, a sign winter will soon be a memory. The migratory birds were reportedly sighted in the area as early as January. Among the first in line to enjoy spring's bounty, for now they must endure a bit more chill than they might prefer. Sound familiar? Comet photo by Kevin Schnepf

Wagoner congratulated Camden Elementary School on ISTEP scores. "We're proud of the work you are doing," he said. Camden Elementary teacher Joe Brown requested street closures during the school carnival on March 9 from 5 to 8 p.m. The affected streets will be closed starting at 4 p.m. The next meeting will be March 13 at 7 p.m.

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**Carroll County Farm Bureau Incorporated Annual Meeting**  
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**Speakers:**  
 Indiana Packers Corp & Vreba-Hoff Dairy Development LLC

RSVP by March 6th  
 765-564-2638



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