

## Auditor provides annual financial report *One more piece of the puzzle*

By **Debbie Lowe**  
Staff writer

Carroll County Council members learned more about county fiscal status at their March 20 evening meeting. They were given the annual financial report by county auditor Beth Myers.

Myers emphasized the numbers were unaudited. The term "unaudited" means the Indiana State Board of Accounts (SBA) has not certified the report numbers as correct. That measure is

the result of the annual SBA audit. County council members have requested an early SBA audit to more fully understand the county's true fiscal picture.

Council members learned from the report that although less county money was spent than budgeted across the board, more money was spent than received. Approximately \$2,232,913 more was spent. Revenues can only be anticipated when the budget is developed, and in 2006 those anticipated revenues fell short for Carroll County.

Councilman Jerry Hendress asked fellow members how to project expected income in a meaningful way to avoid repeating the problem.

"Figure the percentage of shortage this year and apply that to next year," instructed council member Steve Ashby.

"The bottom line is we have to keep control of the budget," Hendress said.

Council finance committee member Ron Slavens, who holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and

economics from Manchester College said in a March 23 *Comet* interview, one challenge for the county is that the auditor and the treasurer are not generating the same type of report for council members to review.

"Procedures are the key," Slavens said. "That's our biggest problem."

"The council is unable to compare apples to apples from their reports," he continued. "When it comes down to making fiscal decisions, we (council members) want to be looking at a piece of paper

with numbers we can have confidence in."

"We have to get the system working better," Slavens concluded. "My goal is to make government as efficient as possible. That means taxpayers' money is spent wisely."

"Since this has come to light, we want to find out if there is a real problem and if there is, get to the bottom of it," council president Rob Baker said. "We need to figure out how to fix it and then make sure it doesn't happen again."

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## Student Council offers \$2,000 toward CJSHS outdoor sign

By **Jennifer Archibald**  
Staff writer

At least 15 topics were covered at a joint meeting March 20 between the Carroll School Board and the Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School Student Council.

The annual joint meeting is held at the school during school hours to discuss student issues and concerns and to exchange information.

The session started with a Student Council offer to the board. Emily Kistler, president of the Council, said the school needs a new outside sign for posting events, and the Student Council is willing to donate \$2,000 toward the purchase.

Principal Charles Huckstep said the present sign is old and in poor condition. He said a new magnetic sign would cost anywhere from \$4,500 to \$7,000, and a digital sign would cost around \$14,000.

Board president Sam Zook said such a purchase would fall under Capital Projects, and priorities for that fund are considered each year before budget time in August. He said the principals make their own set of priorities for their buildings and present them to the board. There is always a three-year plan for Capital Projects, and revisions can be made each year. So, he said the students' proposal needs to go through their principal and be presented to the board along with other CP considerations.

Student Kristen Arnett said

she has researched the need for defibrillators at school and gave hand-outs to the board. This is the third year that Student Council has asked the board to purchase a defibrillator.

Board member Barb Payne said she previously served on a committee to look into the matter. She said at that time, the cost of a defibrillator was in the range of \$3,000-\$5,000, and people would need to be certified to use it, and then there would be ongoing re-certification. She recalled that there needs to be a two-minute response time for the defibrillator to be effective, so she said that would mean that more than one defibrillator would be needed for this school's configuration. She said so far, the matter has just been taken under advisement.

A few students commented that they thought the response time was more like five or six minutes. Courtney Hall said she knows how to use a defibrillator, and it wouldn't be hard to train people to use one.

Zook commented that as technology changes, the cost of a defibrillator will probably come down.

### Athletic trainer

The students also wanted to know how the search for an athletic trainer is going.

"There's a huge shortage of trainers," Superintendent John Sayers answered. He said he's already made inquiries in

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boys' golf coach.

The following persons were named for fall varsity coaching positions: Rick George, football coach; Mike Miller, cross country; Dave Falkenberg, soccer; Jerry Reinke, boys' tennis; Erin Garrison, girls' golf; and Sarina Herron, cheerleading coach.

Yearl Turnpaugh, volunteer wrestling coach, and coach Ladd Kitchel were given permission to start a youth wrestling club. The club will be chartered with the Indiana State Wrestling Association and will include kindergarten through senior level. It starts right away, and practices go through May 3. The club name is Cougars Wrestling Club, and members will take part in club wrestling. Sayers said the club can use Carroll facilities, if there are not conflicts with scheduled Carroll spring athletics.

The following other facility requests were approved: Chad Myers, seventh and eighth grade softball clinic; Deer Creek Old German Baptist Church, CHS gym on April 15; American Cancer Society, Carroll track for Relay for Life, July 27 and 28; Nick Beaver, main and auxiliary gym for community open gym this summer.

Conference and field trips were approved as follows:

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## The quest for recognition

By **Debbie Lowe**  
Staff writer

Possessing a voice connected to the past, being able to trace heritage and practice long-held meaningful traditions are things many strive for in the local community. Those things have become a heartfelt passion for one Carroll County native and those he represents.

According to author and Chief of the Eel River Indian Tribe Mike Floyd, it has long been held as fact the Carroll County area was only populated by Miami Indians in the years prior to the advent of the canal system. However, Floyd is on a mission to set the record books, and the thinking of historians, straight. He and the tribe also want to gain recognition by the federal government that the tribe was and is a viable one in this area of the country.

Floyd is a 1982 graduate of Delphi Community High School and attended Ball State University. He has been self-employed for most of his adult life. He eventually began using his artwork to make a living. After some time, his art became mostly about Native American subjects.

"This way is more personal," Floyd said. "After a while, I went into self-discovery and I found out there was a much bigger story to be told."

Floyd recently published two books, which independently portray the story of the Eel River Indians. "Eel River Tribe" tells the story from the perspective of the tribe and "I' Anguille Snakes in the Grass - Family of Honor" from the European point of view. Floyd said his mission was an attempt "to correct our history...to correct popular things that are told."

"If you don't know where you come from," Floyd said, "you can't know where you're going."

Floyd explained the late Samuel Milroy, who was a federal government Indian agent, helped the government establish "territories" which in turn allowed for the purchase of land from Indians by virtue of the newly created use of "eminent domain." Because the Eel River Indians' numbers were small, their group was identified by the federal government as a sub-group

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### Talking in the Longhouse

Eel River Indian Tribe Chief Mike Floyd stands in the Longhouse near the fire pit to explain his tribe's journey for federal recognition. A Longhouse is a gathering place for tribal members and guests to share positive thoughts, ideas and feelings. Comet photo by Debbie Lowe



### Two books and an Indian cloth

Books depicting Eel River Indian history, from tribal and European perspectives, were written by Chief Mike Floyd. They are displayed on the ceremonial shirt worn by the chief at Longhouse gatherings. Floyd said he hoped to change the mindset of the local community and national historians about the need to differentiate between local tribes and customs. Comet photo by Debbie Lowe

## Dairy gets IDEM approval

Comet staff report

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has granted the Boerman-Carroll Dairy a permit to begin operations, according to an announcement made Friday by the Carroll County Economic Development Corporation.

The announcement read in part:

"The new dairy will add another strong component to Carroll County's vibrant agricultural base.

"Owner Gerrit Arendsen is eager to establish dairy operations in Carroll County. He is a strong proponent of local business. Arendsen actively pursued local grain, silage, cattle, service agreements, and more products and services for his new dairy operation. Financing and insurance are also being locally arranged.

The E.D.C. welcomes the Arendsen family and the dairy and wishes them well in the future."

The Arendsen's dairy opera-

tion with up to 4,100 head of cattle is planned in Democrat Township on CR 600 S., near SR 75. Milk production is expected to be approximately 25,000 gallons per day.

Although IDEM issued a permit to begin operations, information is still being requested by Carroll County Surveyor Wayne Chapman from the dairy.

Chapman said he requested a drainage plan be presented before the project proceeds and before a building permit is is-

sued by zoning administrator Dale Huffer.

Chapman indicated that as of noon Tuesday, no drainage plan had been received.

Chapman said the land where the dairy is to be built where the dairy is to be built ponds water in several locations. He said builders could address potential drainage issues if they are willing to spend the amount of money needed for adequate pipe for runoff.

The next drainage board meeting will be Monday, April 2 at 8:30 a.m.