

New services available for regional businesses

Comet staff report

The REACH Center (Regional Employment Assessment Center for Hiring) will host a ribbon cutting and public open house on May 10 at 976 Mezzanine Drive, Suite C, Lafayette. The ribbon cutting is at 10 a.m. and the open house from 3 to 6 p.m.

The Lafayette REACH Center is a pilot project of the WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) funded by Purdue University.

Replication of the REACH project in Kokomo, is anticipated in 2008.

The Center is a one-stop resource facility designed to meet the individual needs of businesses in finding and hiring quality employees for high skill career fields. A menu of adaptable services for employers includes regional labor market information, business-training opportunities, made to order applicant screening and assessment as well as intensive interview training.

The center will also be using *WorkKeys*, a customized employability skills assessment tool to insure a better match between employer needs and employee skills. The REACH Center extends its resources to the other 14 counties in the WIRED area through regional Business Consultants. The consultants are available in Benton, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Fountain, Fulton,

Howard, Miami, Montgomery, Tippecanoe, Tipton, Wabash, Warren, and White counties.

To learn more about the services offered by the

Francis

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"It doesn't make sense to rob Peter to pay Paul," Carl Abbott said, suggesting council grant half of the requested amount.

"I understand he will have to come back," Hendress replied. "That doesn't bother me."

Ashby asked if the county charges defendants for transcripts or required restitution for the cost. Currie explained he is developing a protocol to order those with public defenders to provide reimbursement to the county for a portion of that expense.

"We will work with you," Baker told Currie after the vote.

Currie was granted a transfer of \$160 from the expert witness account to the transcripts account to pay outstanding statements.

Approved were \$41,312.66 for the Carrollton Bridge and \$7,341.60 for bridge inspections was approved. The monies were received into county general from federal reimbursements. The additional appropriations were moving the money from county general to the correct line items in the budget.

The next council meeting is set for May 31 at 8 a.m.

REACH Center or area Business Consultants call 765-477-1906.

Pitch-in

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- Development of an access and growth plan for the Hoosier Heartland Highway;
- Building an infrastructure (including wireless Internet access) for growth;
- Growing downtown businesses;
- Developing a balanced code and ordinance enforcement;
- Developing businesses and leadership skills in the community and in youth; and
- Stabilizing and improving downtown buildings.

The six issues will form the basis for the next meeting, scheduled for May 31 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Described by Ayres as the meeting "where the rubber meets the road," the May meeting will be the time when participants will be asked to "roll up their sleeves" and develop an action plan for each critical issue. Task forces will be formed. Ayres said a third and final meeting will be scheduled for early fall.

"We're not just here for one night," Ayres concluded. "We need worker bees for the next meeting."

Anyone interested in participating in the next Pitch In can call the Delphi Chamber at (765) 564-3034, Main Street Association at 564-6692 or Delphi City Council President Carolyn Pearson at 564-3488.

Obituaries



William G. Myers
William G. "Bill" Myers, 61, of Kahului, Hawaii, formerly of Oakley, died Tuesday, April 24, 2007, in Kahului.

Born May 2, 1945, in Logansport, he was the son of Hershel and Lela Pearson Myers. He attended Delphi High School and received his bachelor's degree in management from Chamaine University in 1978. He also graduated from the University of Hawaii in 1979.

A U.S. Navy veteran, he served in the Vietnam War.

Mr. Myers joined the Honolulu Police Department in 1971, where he worked undercover for some time. He was a member of the organized crime task force, dignitary protection and motorcycle units. In 1976 he transferred to the Maui Police Department where he served as a detective sergeant with the homicide unit. He was promoted to captain in 1992, and retired in 1994.

Following his retirement from the police department, he worked for Costco Wholesale as director of marketing and membership until 1999.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, he returned to law enforcement, serving as security manager for Securitas Security Service for Hawaii airports.

Mr. Myers served as vice president of the Maui United Way in 2000. He also served as a baseball umpire.

Surviving are three sons, J.R. Myers (wife: Lisa) of Greeley, Colo., Wade Myers of Prescott, Ariz., and Wylan Myers of Kahului; four sisters, Esther Faurote (husband: Frank) of rural Lafayette, Velma Manis and Carolyn Lauderdale Hinote, both of Merrillville, and Mary Jo Orman (husband: Bill) of Kalamazoo, Mich.; three brothers, Wayne Myers (wife: Ellie) of Mountain Home, Idaho, Glen Myers (wife: Carol) of Cloverdale, and John Myers (wife: Judy) of Bloomington; and one grandson, Jordan Myers.

A brother, Jerry Myers, preceded him in death.

Services were held in Kahului.

Patrick J. O'Donnell



Patrick J. O'Donnell
Patrick J. O'Donnell, 92, of Camden, died at 2:25 a.m. Saturday, April 28, 2007, at Miller's Merry Manor, Logansport.

Born March 18, 1915, in Chicago, he was the son of Patrick H. and Anna C. Larson O'Donnell. He graduated from DePaul Academy in Chicago and attended various colleges, including Indiana University Kokomo.

He served in the United States Army during World War II.

On St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1951, in St. Rita's Church in Chicago, he married Mary K. Bolduc. In 1952, the couple relocated to Camden from Chicago. She preceded him in death on June 7, 2004.

Mr. O'Donnell was a retired accountant with Kain's Motor Service in Logansport.

He was an active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Delphi and had also been an active member of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Logansport, where he served as a member of the parish council, lector, and CCD instructor.

In earlier years, he had been a member of the Logansport Toastmasters Club, Lions International, and the Knights of Columbus.

He had been a director of the Rock Creek Conservancy District from its inception, retiring in 2006.

Mr. O'Donnell was instrumental in the creation of the Carroll Consolidated School Corporation.

He enjoyed animals and all sports, especially baseball and watching the Chicago Cubs.

Surviving are four daughters, Kathleen Rennekamp (husband: Bruce) of St. Louis, Mo., Anne Morris of Cincinnati, Ohio, Mary O'Donnell of Lafayette, and Eileen O'Connell (husband: Timothy) of Indianapolis; two sons, Patrick O'Donnell and Joseph O'Donnell, both of Camden; six grandchildren, Anna Rennekamp of St. Louis, Elizabeth Morris and Kathryn Morris, both of Cincinnati, Daniel O'Donnell of Lafayette, Eric O'Connell of Bloomington, and Emily O'Connell of Indianapolis; six sisters, Mary Hinkle, Elizabeth Melady, Margaret O'Donnell, Helen Nolan, Patricia Guswiler, and Josephine Joyce; a sister-in-law, Rose Boylan of Chicago; and a number of nieces and nephews.

A mass of Christian burial will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 207 N. Washington St., Delphi. Father Peter J. Vanderkolk will officiate. Burial will be at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Logansport.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at Kroeger Funeral Home, 711 E. Market St., Logansport, and one hour prior mass at the church. A rosary service will be held at the funeral home at 5 p.m. Friday.

Memorials may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church, Delphi.

Condolences and personal remembrances may be left online at www.kroegerfuneralhome.com.

Deyoe Sheetz

Deyoe Sheetz, 84, of Flora, died at 1:20 a.m. Monday, April 30, at St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center in Delphi.

Born July 23, 1922, in Twelve Mile, he was the son of Luther and Ethel Conrad Sheetz. He graduated from Metea High School in 1947. On Nov. 15, 1947, he married Elizabeth Ann Fisher at her home in Camden and she survives in Flora.

Mr. Sheetz was a World War II Army veteran and served in Iwo Jima. After the service, he was a farmer and later retired from Wilson Foods in Logansport.

He attended the Grace Brethren Church in Flora. He was also an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan.

Surviving are two sons, Joe D. Sheetz of Burlington and Mark A. Sheetz of Bringhurst; one daughter Pamela Sue Michael (husband: Greg) of Flora; one brother, Leo Sheetz (wife: Lu) of Traverse City, Mich.; and two grandsons, Ethan Michael (wife: Stephanie) of Indianapolis and Titus Michael of Flora.

He was preceded in death by one sister, Airebelle Showley and her husband, Richard.

Services will be at 10 a.m. today, Wednesday, at Reinke Funeral Home in Flora. Burial will be at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Flora, with military graveside rites provided by the Kokomo VFW Military Rites team. Pastor Jim Franklin will officiate the service.

Memorials may be made to Serenity Hospice. Envelopes are available at the funeral home.

Council

From page 1A

business, folks," Hendress said.

The report indicated the current checking account balance is \$1.3 million and monthly claims total in excess of \$1 million. Homestead credit funds are not expected until mid-July.

Carl Abbott emphasized there are outside entities, not under county control, which affect the county's income and spending significantly.

The committee report said that school corporations sometimes request semi-annual settlement funds early. The Rossville School Corporation has already requested funds. There is no option but to pay on demand when the request is made. Tax bills may not be sent out until the middle of June at the earliest with a July due date.

Committee members included recommendations in the report.

"We suggest the council and commissioners consider meeting with all county department heads/elected officials to inform them of the serious financial condition of the county and to ask for cooperation in spending, and to request suggestions from those individuals who should be more familiar with their departments and budgets. That same meeting should be also provide any instructions for 2008 budget preparation..."

It was decided the group would invite the commissioners and department heads to the May 31 council meeting to explain the situation.

County auditor Beth Myers announced the Department of Local Government Finance verbally approved a budget of \$7,306,364 for 2007. DLGF told the county two weeks ago to either reduce planned spending by \$337,824 or show an increase in income. Myers said she worked with department heads to decrease their combined budgets by approximately \$112,000.

The DLGF accepted the addition of the 2006 budget surplus (which was more than the actual income) as additional income for 2007. Those two figures then satisfied the DLGF reduction in the county budget.

Slavens asked for a breakdown of the decreases however one was not available at the meeting. He noted that \$112,000 was "insignificant" compared to a \$2 million shortfall in 2006.

Slavens said the council should have been given the opportunity to make budget changes before it was re-submitted to DLGF.

Council members met April 27 in special session to discuss the repair of the courthouse air conditioning system. Brown asked about the budget amendments at that meeting and was told by other council members that "it was taken care of."

"We had a golden opportunity to make significant changes when we met in special session last week, but we

didn't get the chance," Slavens said.

"It is a council issue and should have been discussed by the council," Slavens continued. "The budget is approved by the council and the council should have approved any amendments. We should have been given the opportunity."

"It frustrated me (last Friday) because I didn't know what was going on," Hendress said.

However, speaking to Myers Hendress said, "I commend you for what you did."

"I can show you the figures," Myers said. "All you had to do was come in and ask for them."

Baker said the council requested information from the county treasurer that had not been received.

"We want a monthly snapshot of our finances," Baker said. "How close are we to getting that?"

"I don't know," was Brewington's reply.

"What is the balance for county general right now," Slavens asked her.

"I don't know what the balance is," she said. "Monthly comparisons (with the auditors' office) do not balance fund-wise."

However, Myers disagreed. "I believe we are in balance except for county general," she said. She said comparison amounts were approximately \$3,000 different. Myers said her office was beginning to work on locating discrepancies between the two offices.

"We need a quarterly report on income," Brown said.

Baker added, "I'd like to see

it monthly. I want a figure."

Ashby explained that a cash balance is very important. "We need a cash number," he said.

Ashby recommended council members be given a copy of the yearly audit when it is received by the council president.

The issue of the county policy, which allows employees to be paid for compensatory (comp) time, was discussed. Highway Superintendent Ron Francis quoted page 20 of the county employee handbook. The policy explained employees are to be paid for any amount of comp-time over 240 hours.

"No other county pays supervisors for comp-time that I'm aware of," Ashby said.

He said it would be costly for the county to pay Awwad for suspected accumulated comp-time.

"I don't know of any business that pays for comp-time for supervisors," Cripe said.

Francis said Awwad would not have comp-time when he left his post.

Brown pointed out the handbook dictated everyone employed at the county highway is required to work 40 hours per week. However one employee works 40 hours, gets paid for 36 hours, and is granted comp-time for the other four hours each week.

"We must share with department heads the understanding of what the problem is," Brown said. "We want to give them the opportunity to become part of the solution to the problem."

Alice L. Harner

Alice L. Harner, 84, formerly of rural Delphi, died April 25, 2007, at St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center, Delphi.

Born April 4, 1923, in Attica, she was the daughter of James A. and Cora Beavers Hunm. She was married in August 1945 in Delphi to William H. Harner, who preceded her in death on April 9, 1985.

Mrs. Harner was employed as a sander at Peters-Revington in Delphi, retiring in May 1985.

She was a member of the Delphi United Methodist Church.

Surviving are a son, Thomas L. Harner (wife: Linda) of Rising Fawn, Ga.; a daughter, Patsy Delaney (companion) Butch Benefiel) of Delphi; eight grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Services were held Monday at Davidson Funeral Home, Delphi. Burial was at I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Delphi.

Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association or Carroll County Cancer Association.

Births

Jennifer and Kevin Schnepf of rural Carroll County are parents of an 8-pound 2-ounce daughter, Pahdmé Sophia, born April 23 at Home Hospital in Lafayette. Maternal grandparents are Gary and Peggy Boatright of Marshall, Texas. Paternal grandparents are Les and Pam Schnepf of Wood Dale, Ill. Paternal great-grandparents are Robert and Mary Schnepf of rural Tippecanoe County.

Loren and Beth (Longenecker) Miller of Cutler are parents of a 7-pound, 11-ounce son, Thomas Eli, born April 22 at Lafayette Home Hospital. Grandparents are Jesse and Suzanne Longenecker and Bruce and Deb Miller, all of Rossville. Great-grandparents include Donald and Alma Brubaker and Naomi Miller, all of Pymont; Harley and Gladys Miller of Rossville; and Helen Longenecker of Manheim, Pa.

Matt and Monica Nichols of Terre Haute are parents of a 9-pound, 6-ounce son, Charles Matthew, born April 8 in Terre Haute. Maternal grandparents are Mayor Steven Skaggs and Randy and Mary Beth England, all of Alexandria. Paternal grandparents are Bob and Anne Nichols of Delphi. Maternal great-grandparents are William Bradford of Alexandria and Jean Straub of Anderson. Paternal great-grandparents are Robert and Elma Nichols of Lafayette.

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