

Commissioners seek federal SR75 extension funding

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

A request by American Structurepoint to apply for federal appropriations from Congressman Joe Donnelly's office on behalf of Carroll County was unanimously approved at Monday's meeting of the Carroll County Commissioners. The funds would be used to build an extension to SR75 north from Camden to the proposed Hoosier Heartland Highway. The fee for the service is \$15,000, but will only be paid if funding for the project is secured and used by the county, according to commissioners' attorney Barry Emerson.

Commissioner George Mears said a significant amount of the state's total production of corn, soybeans and hogs

is produced in Carroll County. He said the road was needed to aid in getting goods to market in the most efficient manner.

According to Hoosier Heartland Corridor Lobbyist Mark Davis, there is no current INDOT plan for an extension connection to the new highway. However, Davis is in favor of Carroll County seeking federal funding to build the extension. He said it is conceivable INDOT would alter the project plan to include a junction where SR75 would meet the road.

"It is a good idea to extend SR75 to connect to the new highway," Davis told the *Comet* Monday afternoon. "The commissioners are pursuing this in the correct way. It is the logical next step in the process."

Animal control

Tricia Davis, owner of Tricia's Dog House and Pet Savers, a no-kill animal shelter on Range Line Rd. asked commissioners to intercede with current county animal control policy. She said the county no longer accepts litters of puppies at Dr. Lawrence Stauffer's facility, which provides shelter services to the county.

"Unwanted puppies should never be brought into this world," Davis said as she detailed what happens to puppies when they are not wanted after being born.

Davis explained she had a good working relationship with Stauffer for five years, but recently the county policy changed and she is no longer able to continue the working relationship as it

was. She said her shelter accepts between 400 and 600 animals each year from county residents for no cost to the county.

Davis requested commissioners insist pet owners spay and neuter their animals to prevent further overpopulation and to let Stauffer work with her facility again. Additionally, she asked that every county resident be taxed \$1 for free or reduced-cost spay and neuter services. She said she hosts similar services each Friday in Lafayette.

Commissioners Bill Brown referred Davis to the county council to request an additional tax be levied. He suggested funding sources after the shelter receives a federal identification number for tax exempt donations and grants.

Highway department

Bid acceptance was delayed for rehabilitation of Bridge #36. Bids received significantly exceeded engineer's estimates, according to highway superintendent Ron Francis.

Francis gave three solutions to the problem that included rejecting all bids and re-bidding the project, using money left over from the Lancaster Covered Bridge project or delaying the project until 2008 to accumulate more operational funds in the bridge account.

"What direction would you like me to go?" Francis asked.

Brown moved to accept the low bid from Jack Isom Construction pending council approval of a transfer of \$40,000 from the Lancaster Bridge fund. Mears, who provided the second to the motion, **Continued page 5A**

Camden turns back the clock to celebrate 175th birthday

By Kevin Schnepf
Staff writer

The town of Camden has not thrown itself a big birthday party since its sesquicentennial 25 years ago. For a place with such a long and storied history, the time has come to celebrate again.

Camden will observe its 175th year as a town this weekend.

Attendees are encouraged to dress in clothing similar to that worn when the town was conceived in 1832.

Public urged to participate in Land Use Plan

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Area Plan Commission Zoning Administrator Dale Huffer announced a public meeting about the comprehensive land use plan development will be held July 26 at 7 p.m. in the 4-H Community Building in Flora. This will be the second meeting for the public to express their views about the plan currently under development.

Attendees will be asked to respond to specific questions and be given sufficient opportunity to provide input to developers about planning for the future of the county.

"I urge as many people as possible to attend the meeting," Huffer told the *Comet* Friday. "This is an opportunity for all county residents to participate."

For more information contact Huffer at (765) 564-4468.



A free breakfast will start the weekend off Saturday at 9 a.m. in front of the community building.

Opening ceremonies will begin at 10 with a speech by Jeff Sieber, president of the 175th celebration committee. State Representative Rich McClain and State Senator

Brandt Hershman will then present Senate Concurrent Resolution 79, a congratulatory letter to the town regarding its milestone.

Patriotic dedications and a balloon release will be part of the ceremony. A flame will be lit by long-time resident Anna Merle Zook near the flagpole in the library yard and will burn throughout the weekend. A plaque in honor of veterans from the town who served since World War II will also be presented.

Special memorabilia will be on sale in the lot on the east side of the community building while supplies last. A commemorative stamp featuring the old water tower and a cancellation stamp dated for the event will be affixed to postcards with photographs of old Main St.

Displays and demonstrations will be a large part of the event. Camden Woman's Literary Club Quilt Show, antique farm machines, old-time fire trucks, museum pieces and period photos will be on display throughout town.

Conner Prairie will offer children's activities and games at the park. Re-enactors from the organization, dressed in period clothing, will help children craft candles and yarn dolls. The special program was funded by a grant from Duke Energy.

Choose from hay, buggy or trolley rides as your mode of transportation for tours around town on Saturday.

Camden Preservation Society will host a free architectural tour Saturday at 3. The tour will feature the opera house, Masonic building and public library. A tour guide will also share many interesting facts concerning the turrets, cornices, fret work, columns and other details of the Italianate, Bungalow, Queen Anne and Four Square styles of homes, businesses and churches located along the streets of Camden.

Those interested will board the Delphi Interurban Trolley at the rear entrance of the school gym. Each participant will receive a folder with facts regarding styles and periods of architecture and how they became noteworthy within society.

Plenty of food will be served during the event, including lemonade, kettle corn, ice cream, watermelon, root beer, sandwiches and pizza. Concession stands will be in place throughout town and at the park.

A special "reservation only" luncheon will be offered Saturday at the school. Bring your own food and join in a picnic lunch between the school and

Continued page 5A

Desiray Simmons is Miss Carroll County

Comet staff report

Nineteen-year-old Desiray Lynette Simmons was crowned Miss Carroll County 2007 at the 50th annual pageant held Saturday evening in the show arena at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Flora.

She is the daughter of Jeff and Michelle Simmons of Cutler. A 2006 graduate of Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School, she has spent the last year working as a state FFA officer. She plans to attend Purdue University in the fall.

Her court included first runner-up Courtney S. Rinehart, 18, of Flora; second runner-up Jennifer Evelyn Hardyniec, 18, of Bringhurst; third runner-up Kayleigh Alicia Morgan, 17, of Delphi; and co-Miss Congenialities Kayleigh Morgan and Jacqueline Sinnamon Combs, 18, of Kokomo.

During fair week, the queen and her court attend all livestock shows, participate in the 4-H Parade, help at the livestock auction, and generally work all week to support the fair.

Miss Simmons will compete in August for the title of Miss Indiana State Fair Queen. Her sponsors were Dr. D.J. Harmon, Optometrist, and Cindy Harmon, Attorney at Law.

Miss Simmons, Miss Rinehart and Miss Hardyniec are all ten-year 4-H members and belong to the Monroe Achievers 4-H Club. Miss Morgan is a nine-year member of the Madison Magnificents 4-H Club and Miss Combs is a ten-year member of the Burlington Wildcats 4-H Club.

As winner, the queen re-



County 4-H queen and her court

Miss Carroll County 2007 is Desiray Simmons, seated. She is surrounded by her court. They are (l to r): Courtney Rinehart, 1st runner-up; Jennifer Hardyniec, 2nd runner-up; Jacquelyn Combs, Miss Congeniality; and Kayleigh Morgan, 3rd runner-up and co-Miss Congeniality. Dale Snipes photo

ceived an array of gifts including tiara, Baker Funeral Home; trophy, Reinke Funeral Home; diamond necklace, Sisson & Son Jewelers; \$100 savings bonds, Wise & Wise Farms and Pearson's of Delphi; \$50 savings bonds, Fisher's Restaurant and Dean Donna Overholser;

Longaberger basket, Pam Michael, independent Longaberger national sales leader; free oil change, Esserman Tire Service; magnetic sign, queen committee; 11x14 picture and complimentary session, Portraits by Lori; pedicure set, Body Shop at Home by Crystal Grandstaff;

\$15 cash, Collisions Unlimited and Harry W. Jones DDS; \$20 gas card, Salin Bank & Trust, and video of pageant, Channel 2.

First runner-up Courtney Rinehart is the daughter of Bret and Michelle Rinehart. She will be a freshman this

Continued page 8A

County's first queen presented new crown

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Jane Williams Kearns was the first queen of the Carroll County 4-H Fair, in 1958.

She was honored Saturday night at the county's 50th queen contest. She was given a dozen long-stemmed red roses, a plaque, and a real crown. Back in 1958, her crown was made of cardboard, sprinkled with glitter, - but she wore it proudly.

Jane said she still has that original crown - somewhere - along with her banner, the watch she was given, and dried roses. She also still has the pale

pink dress she wore in the evening gown competition and all the newspaper clippings from the event.

That first contest was sponsored by Delta Theta Chi. The sorority selected sponsors (all women), who then sought out contestants.

"Cora St. Amand came to me and said, 'If you'll be in it, I'll sponsor you,'" Jane said.

There were 16 contestants, and the sponsors also served as judges. They rated each girl in the contest, with the exception of the one they sponsored.

Jane recalls what that first contest was like. She said the stage was a highly decorated flat bed trailer with skirting. At

least 1,000 people were in attendance.

The judges didn't know anything about the girls except what they saw that night. They didn't have a list of their activities, they didn't interview them, and there was no impromptu question, all of which are part of the contest now.

Jane said although the girls appeared in evening gowns, the naming of the winners and the crowning were done when

Continued page 8A



Kearns ('58)

Sewer district granted new judge TLRSD threatens counter suit

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

A hearing to determine the validity of a petition, filed in Carroll Circuit Court by a group of Jefferson Township residents opposed to becoming part of Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District (TLRSD), was scheduled for 9 a.m. July 16. No mention was made of the looming court date at the TLRSD Thursday night meeting. Sewer district attorney Donald Tribbett was also noticeably absent from the bi-

monthly district meeting.

However, Tribbett filed a motion the following day on behalf of the sewer district to request a new judge be appointed to the case.

On Monday morning, every seat was filled, and 36 additional people lined the perimeter of the courtroom, as Circuit Court Judge Donald Currie granted the request. He instructed the attorneys for both parties to choose a new judge by mutual agreement within seven days. Currie said failure to reach an agreement would

mean he will appoint a panel to choose a judge to preside over the case.

"I had no inkling this was happening," opposition attorney Wayne Holmes told the crowd after the five-minute hearing.

After pouring out of the courtroom, many of the spectators went to the Carroll County Commissioners' meeting, which was in progress on the second floor of the courthouse. Former commissioner Clara Rider was on the agenda to address the conservancy issue.

"There are a lot of people in Jefferson Township who are not in favor of the conservancy district," she told commissioners. "I don't think they (conservancy district proponents) have analyzed the costs."

Rider noted the recent reduction for the connect fee by the sewer district as a measure to help with customer costs. She further recommended those property owners in Stony Creek be excluded from the sewer district.

Rider, who owns two parcels **Continued page 5A**