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**Oddly beautiful**

International Order of Odd Fellows members, left to right, Gordon Stevens, Tom Flora, Ralph Hughes and Don Willy find a convenient way to view façade restoration recently completed on the club's building in Delphi. Members met last week to celebrate the completion of the project and to accept a façade restoration grant from the City of Delphi attained through an application process offered by Delphi Main St. Association. Repairs included tuck-pointing, repair of metal facing around windows, painting and replacement of approximately 1,500 deteriorated bricks. The local order celebrated its 125th year in the building on April 29. Trustee Gordon Stevens said the building was a credit to the organization and an eloquent testimonial of the order's prosperity. Similar renovations are being performed by Delphi Preservation Society on a façade east of the court house. At least three other businesses are either in the application process or considering it according to Anita Werling of Main St. "People have been talking about it," Werling said. "Now we're beginning to see applications as well." Comet photo by Kevin Schnepf

**Police solve area burglaries**

Comet staff report

Two suspects have been named in the January burglary of Monical's Restaurant, Delphi, and February burglaries of Flora Citgo and

Flora Maramart.

Arrest warrants have been issued for Charles Roach, 29, and Phillip H. Shelton II, 28, both of Frankfort. Roach is being held at the Marion County Jail and Shelton at the

Indiana Department of Corrections, both on unrelated charges.

With information provided by Det. Jeff Ward of the Frankfort Police Department, Flora Officer Randy Larimore and Det. Steve Mullin of the Carroll County Sheriff's Department conducted interviews with the two suspects in March at the Marion County Jail, where both men were being held at the time.

From information obtained during the interviews, Det. Robert Dowdan of the Boone County Sheriff's Department was able to develop leads, resulting in warrants being issued by Boone County in at least three burglary cases. He also

obtained additional information that implicated the two men in the Flora burglaries and the burglary at Monical's.

Officer Larimore, and Det. Mullin, along with Carroll County Deputy Prosecutor Kristine Smith, again interviewed one of the suspects at the Marion County Jail on June 28. The interview led to the arrest warrants.

Hamilton County Sheriff's Department and Indiana State Police assisted in the investigation.

Flora Police Chief Paul Redmon said the investigation continues in Hamilton County, where it is believed the two might have disposed of evidence in the crimes.

**Alleged victim turns into crime suspect**

Comet staff report

A 21 year-old Monticello woman faces charges of filing a false police report, a Class A misdemeanor, after being investigated by the Carroll County Sheriff Department authorities.

Autumn M. Carter reported being the victim of a crime in the northwestern part of Carroll County July 9. Upon further investigation, Sgt. Mark

Back, Det. Steve Mullin and Det. Kevin Hammond learned that Carter fabricated the story she originally reported. It was also learned that Carter was wanted on a Tippecanoe County Superior Court #5 arrest warrant for illegal consumption of an alcoholic beverage, a Class C misdemeanor.

Cater was incarcerated in the Carroll County jail with a \$2,000 bond.

**Gardiner given stiff sentence**

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

Local resident Julie Gardiner was convicted of dealing methamphetamine within 1,000 feet of a public park, a Class A felony, June 12 in Carroll Circuit Court.

Judge Donald Currie sentenced Gardiner July 13 and issued the following:

"The Defendant shall be committed to the Department of Correction for classification and confinement for a period of thirty (30) years. The Defendant shall



Gardiner

not be fined but shall be assessed court costs of \$359.00."

Ten years of Gardiner's sentence was suspended and she was given 10 years of probation. Gardiner was given 48 days credit for time spent in confinement.

Gardiner told the court she planned to appeal the sentence and requested a public defender be appointed for that purpose. The court found the defendant indigent and appointed Richard L. Martin for the appeal.

**No public defender appointed**

**Flora man charged with child molestation and exploitation**

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

Phillip L. Stringer II, 30, of Flora was arrested July 4 on several counts of child molestation and child exploitation. He appeared in Carroll Circuit Court July 5 for an initial hearing and was formally charged with eight Class A felony counts, child molestation and one count of child exploitation, a Class C felony.

After listening to the defendant's testimony about assets, Judge Donald Currie did not appoint a public defender to represent him. Currie set bond at \$500,000 surety and Stringer is to have no contact with the victim if he posts bond. According to the probable cause affidavit signed by Car-



Stringer

roll County Sheriff Detective Kevin Hammond, the department was notified July 4 of sexual misconduct allegations. The 13-year-old victim stated Stringer engaged in sexual acts with her since age eight. She reported he also took photographs of her with his cellular telephone camera.

Stringer allegedly admitted to the allegations to Carroll County Detective Steve Mullin. The affidavit states, "when asked about specific time frames, Stringer stated that whatever (the victim) disclosed was probably correct."

Stringer signed a consent-to-search form to allow Mullin to obtain evidence.

Aug. 15 status and Sept. 26 omnibus hearings are scheduled.

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