

## Jail meals dish out savings for county coffers

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

Jail meals was a hotly debated topic for more than a year in Carroll County. It was discussed and debated in both commissioners' and council meetings throughout 2006 when complaints and concerns from inmates and their families were many. County leaders took note of problems, which seemed to be about the lack of information concerning exactly what the cost was to provide the meals. They resolved to find a solution.

That solution came by restructuring how the program was administered by

newly-elected sheriff Tony Burns. All sheriffs before Burns were paid a fixed amount by the state for each meal served. If the sheriff could provide the meals for less than the state paid, they were allowed to pocket the difference. That difference supplemented the sheriffs' income, but sheriffs were not obligated to share information with the county about the amount of money they pocketed over the years.

That system changed in January 2007. Burns said commissioners and council members agreed to pay him 60 percent of the county prosecutor's

salary, which is determined by the state. Burns purchases the food, implements the meals and submits receipts to the auditor for payment.

This was a risky proposition for the county and Burns because neither knew how much was spent in the actual cost of the food needed to feed inmates.

"This was one of the first things I wanted to tackle," Burns said. "And it's important for Carroll County citizens to know how it's working out."

Burns said he gives monthly expenditure reports to the county council to keep members informed about

the financial impact of jail meals to the county. Burns reduced the budget appropriation for food from \$54,000 to \$45,000 in 2007, with the belief he would be saving the county a significant amount of money. The average per meal cost year-to-date is 83 cents. The state allowed \$1.82 per meal in 2006.

According to Burns, the county spent \$17,156.60 for food in the first six months of 2007. The projected amount for the year is \$34,313.20, however that number is dependent upon variables, such as how many prisoners are fed in that time period

and the unpredictable cost of goods. In contrast, the county spent \$35,610.49 for the first six months in 2006. Total expenditure for jail meals in 2006 was \$71,933.17.

"I'm very pleased with the cost savings," Burns said noting the reduction in cost.

"I have had zero complaints about the meals at the jail this year," council member Steve Ashby told the *Comet*.

"I believe the goal of the council was to know exactly how much money was being spent on jail meals," Burns concluded. "I think we are achieving that goal."

## New DCSC budget proposes slight tax increase

By Kevin Schnepf  
Staff writer

Rebuilding a school system's educational status and finances takes hard work with attention to countless details. However, positive results are worth the effort and even sweeter when quality people and resources are utilized without having to raise patrons' taxes to make changes feasible.

Delphi Community School Corporation Board of Trustees met for a budget discussion work session prior to the regular meeting Monday night. The board and DCSC Superintendent Ralph Walker used the time to clarify details regarding the corporation's short-term financial concerns.

Walker said next year's tax rate should rise between four to 10 cents, average for the area in recent years.

"That's typical for yearly growth," he explained.

He said the budget should allow for positive changes without having to further burden the local public.

Following the work session, the board approved Walker's request to advertise the corporation budget and tax rates that are found on page 5B of today's edition of the *Comet*.

The board will hear public input regarding the budget at the next regular meeting Aug. 27 at 7 p.m. in the corporation office conference room. A vote to accept the budget will be held during the Sept. 10 regular meeting.

### Teachers' contract partially approved

The board voted to approve the teachers' contract with the exception of the insurance component. Details of the in-

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## All about communication

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

The purpose of gathering together the local area's three representatives and a room filled with citizens Monday night was a simple one. It was to promote communication between those who were elected to represent and those who elected them to be represented.

And according to Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

State Representative Rich McClain, State Senator Brandt Hershman and U.S. Congressman Joe Donnelly under the same roof at the same time.

"It's about communication between elected officials and citizens," Bradshaw said. "It's nice to be able to talk to them. When they are elected, you hope that Washington and Indianapolis won't change those people."

The three representatives were more than willing to participate in the casual give-and-take session. Chamber director Sana Booker discovered how

easy it was to arrange the gathering.

"These are very accessible legislators," Booker said. "They all three were happy to come and talk."

The trio spoke and answered

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Bradshaw



Booker



Mailing label goes here

## Carroll to get new scoreboards and another concession stand

By Jennifer Archibald  
Staff writer

Carroll School Board awarded the contract to build a concession stand at the softball/baseball/soccer complex to John Kinzie Construction.

Superintendent John Sayers said there were two comparable quotes for the job, both from local contractors. The board accepted Kinzie's quote of \$91,584 at a regular board meeting Aug. 7. The other quote was from Richardson & Son, for \$91,640.

New athletic director Shaun Rose requested the purchase of three new wireless scoreboards and clocks - for the football field and for the baseball and softball diamonds. Total cost will be \$23,387. Sayers said sponsorships of the signs could help defray the cost. The request for the purchase was approved.

Also approved was roof repair work at

the elementary school at a cost of \$14,815.18. Tremco will do the work, and it will be paid out of the Capital Projects Fund.

Cougarettes dance team requested three fundraising events, and two were approved - a dance clinic and a dance after the Delphi football game. A request to have a lemon shake-up stand at home football games was denied.

Beth Moore was hired as fifth grade language arts teacher.

Sarah Kirkman will be the new varsity volleyball coach. Other volleyball coaches are Jessica Huffer, junior varsity, and Tom Hedde, seventh grade. The volleyball program still needs an eighth grade coach.

Other coaching assignments approved were: Steve Keown, varsity baseball; Tom Hedde, boys' varsity golf; Chad Myers, varsity softball; Jerry Reinke,

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## Sensational sensory experience



Downtown Delphi is shown awash in colorful lights, the din of community interaction and the aroma of home cooking during the 152nd annual Carroll County Old Settlers' Festival, Meeting and Rendezvous held last week. Festival-goers visited booths and food tents, browsed historic and artistic displays, and enjoyed musical entertainment, tours and demonstrations. The event is the oldest active festival in the United States. See page 1B for more photos from Old Settlers. Comet photo by Kevin Schnepf

## Helderman asks to withdraw; Flora convention must proceed

By Susan Scholl  
Editor

Flora's town convention scheduled for Thursday evening will take place despite Troy Helderman requesting that his name be taken off the ballot.

The Flora businessman decided that work and family obligations will prohibit him from giving the position the attention it needs at this particular time.

"Due to receiving some large jobs through my business that will require a lot of my attention and personal issues that need to be dealt with, I'm withdrawing from the race and supporting Vince Seward," Helderman said Monday. "Vince will do a good job for the citizens of Flora. I appreciate everyone who has supported me"

Both men filed as Republicans for the seat on Flora's Town Council that is being vacated Dec. 31 by Roger Daugherty, who is retiring at the end of his four-year term. No Democrats filed so the run-off became necessary and the winner would be the next councilman.

Flora Clerk-Treasurer Joretta Tinsman said that after contacting the State Election Board, even though Helderman said he no longer wants to be a candidate, the town convention must go forward. The cut-off for withdrawing from the election was 12 noon Aug. 1. The formality of electing Seward by a simple majority vote is required.

The convention is set for 7 p.m. Thursday at the 4-H Community Building in Flora.

Seward, a 14-year Flora resident, said that the town has three or four obvious issues

that need immediate attention.

He cited the importance of trying to get the Brethren's Home reopened, continually addressing the needs of an aging sewer system and its high water table, addressing the situation with the old Flora School, and keeping a watchful eye on utility rates.

"We're going to have to be as fiscally responsible as we can on how we attack these issues for the future of Flora," Seward said. "I've tried to keep informed about these issues, but do I know every aspect, no."

"I truly believe my training the last 23 years at Excel Co-op has prepared me for this job, starting with my ability to work with the general public solving problems.

Seward said one of his

### Profile

Vince Seward

Age: 44

Address: 312 W. Walnut St., Flora

Employment: Energy manager, Excel Co-op

Education: Graduate of Purdue University Bachelor Science degree in Agricultural Economics

Affiliations: Flora United Methodist Church - serves on the finance committee, teaches the high school Sunday School class, and with his wife teaches a personal finance class.

Interests: Habitat for Humanity, gardening and home canning

Family: Wife, Dawn; 3 children - Brett 17, Owen 6, and Jenna 4



Seward

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### Educator award

Carroll Superintendent John Sayers, left, presents a certificate to teacher Steve Keown at the Aug. 7 Carroll school board meeting. The certificate, along with a pin, was presented on behalf of the National Association of Agricultural Educators to recognize Keown as a 20-year Ag educator. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald