

## Staying informed



Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner Karl Browning (left) spoke with local government leaders, business people and residents during the Hoosier Heartland Industrial Corridor 25th Annual Meeting held Friday in Logansport. Browning is pictured with City of Delphi Mayor Lee Hoard. Both the mayor and mayoral candidate Randy Strasser were present to hear HHIC updates including Browning's announcement that right-of-way acquisitions for the proposed highway could begin this year. INDOT will host a public informational meeting today, Wednesday, from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Little Theatre at Delphi Community High School. Comet photo by Kevin Schnepf

## Sewer district initiates Phase IV in White Co.

### Phase IIIB groundbreaking planned

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

To celebrate the beginning of the Phase III and IIIB construction, including Carroll County, Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District Board of Directors announced a ground-breaking ceremony to be held Sept. 26 at 11 a.m. at the site of the future Rattle Snake Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, 7722E. US24.

Officials from the Office of Rural Development are expected to be present for the ceremony. The public is invited to attend. For information call (219) 253-1105.

The anticipated date for construction is Oct. 1.

#### Phase IV

The board initiated proceedings to begin the next phase of the sewer district's progress, Phase IV, at a recent evening meeting.

Engineering services will be solicited for the area near Buffalo in White County.

Joe Tierney reported Phase IV was "on the list for grant funding" from the Office of Rural Development. Grant funding allows for lower connection and monthly fees for customers.

The next meeting will be Sept. 27 at 7 p.m.

## Budget

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Hendress said. "The park is not being utilized. There is not enough revenue generated to keep the place open. The county cannot afford to spend that kind of money."

Museum director Phyllis Moore argued to reinstate funding for the museum housed on the bottom floor of the courthouse.

"I feel like it should be kept open constantly - the same hours as the courthouse," she said.

"We aren't going to close the door," Ashby said. "We're paying for heat and lights down there."

"Nobody wants to close anything," he continued. "But we continue to deficit spend from our receipts. The only way we can get out of this hole is by making disbursements equal income. We can't continue to do this."

"You have a resource for funding with donations," council member Ann Brown told Moore.

"It seems like people think the only funding source is the county, which is not true," council member Nancy R. Cripe said.

Emergency Medical Services Director Mike Durr was strongly encouraged to make collections a top priority and keep it a top priority.

"The only way this budget will fly is if the receipts increase," Ashby said.

Carroll Manor Director Martha Lewis was likewise encouraged to increase that facility's rates as soon as possible to help offset the

deficit spending trend.

Generally speaking, departments with the largest budgets lost the most when deletions were made. The sheriff's department was one of those departments. Sheriff Tony Burns said he understood the need to spend less, although his budget for new squad cars was put at zero as was animal control and the line item for food and veterinary services for both K-9 units.

Burns volunteered to head a committee to pull all departments together to purchase office and janitorial supplies in bulk to save the county money.

However, Burns issued a request to council members about additional budget reductions should they become necessary.

"If further budget reductions are necessary, I strongly urge our county leaders, council members and commissioners,

to sacrifice county-funded health benefits before any further county employees are let go," he read from a prepared statement.

The budget is scheduled for formal adoption at 8 a.m. today, Wednesday. It will then be sent to the DLGF for approval. Failure to receive approval would mean further reductions would have to be made to more closely align with income.

## Obituaries

### Helen C. Martin

Helen Catron Martin, 86, of Kokomo, died Sept. 19, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Hospital in Kokomo.

She was born April 14, 1921, in Flora, to Harley and Eva Wilson Albaugh. She married Edward M. Catron on July 16, 1939, in Middlefork, and he preceded her in death March 22, 1983. She then married Floyd "Pepper" Martin on June 1, 1988, and he preceded her in death July 30, 1993.

Mrs. Martin was a bookkeeper at Western High School

from 1960 to 1967, and a homemaker.

Surviving are a daughter, Judith Keisling (husband: Gary) of Kokomo; a son, James Catron (wife: Cindy) of Gunterville, Ala.; a brother, Harry F. Albaugh of Logansport; her grandchildren, Julia Stauffer of Plymouth, Jennifer Benfield of Greensboro and Trent Catron of Oneonta, Ala.; her great-grandchildren, Daniel Stauffer, Michael Stauffer and Joseph Stauffer, all of Plymouth, Maxwell Benfield, Jacob Benfield and Garrett Benfield, all

of Greensboro, and Mollie Catron of Oneonta.

Mrs. Martin was preceded in death by a sister.

Services were Sept. 24 at Stout & Son Funeral Home, 200 E. Main St. in Russiaville, officiated by Pastor Bud Probasco. Burial was at Beech Grove Cemetery in Sharon.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. Envelopes are available at the funeral home. Online condolences may be left online at [www.stoutandson.com](http://www.stoutandson.com).

### Dortha A. Albaugh



Services for Dortha A. "Dot" Albaugh, 84, of Flora, were held Friday at the Flora United Methodist Church. Pastor Larry DeVos officiated and burial was at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Flora.

She died at 5:17 p.m. Sept. 18, 2007, at Seton Specialty Hospital, Lafayette, where she had resided the past two months. She had been in ill health for four months.

Born April 6, 1923, in Carrollton Township, Carroll County, she was the daughter of Charles W. and Clyde "Flora" Sink Wray. She graduated from Carrollton High School in 1941 and attended Indiana State University. On Nov. 22, 1947, in Bringhurst, she married John G. Albaugh, who preceded her in death on Nov. 14, 1995.

Mrs. Albaugh was a homemaker and assisted her husband on their farm.

She was a member of the Flora United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, Friendly Circle Extension Homemakers Club, Carroll County Singles Club, and Carroll County Cancer Support Group.

She enjoyed cooking and helping others in need.

Surviving are a daughter, Susan Albaugh of Lafayette; a son, Kim J. Albaugh of Kokomo; a sister-in-law, Ina Schupert (husband: Bill); a nephew, Dean Cripe (wife: Connie); two nieces, Becky Augustine (husband: Drew) and Julie Shippee; and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

Memorials may be made to the Flora United Methodist Church.

Baker Funeral Home ([www.bakerfh.com](http://www.bakerfh.com)) was in charge of arrangements.

### Manette B. Grant



Manette Beal Grant, 84, formerly of Lafayette, passed away Sept. 22, 2007, at 9:20 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center in Delphi. She had been in failing health and was a resident there for four years.

She was born Jan. 6, 1923, in Goodland to William "Newt" and Mayme Sharkey Beal. Her marriage was to Philip E. Grant in Rensselaer on May 1, 1946. He preceded her in death Aug. 31, 1985.

Mrs. Grant was a 1941 graduate of Rensselaer High School. She was a homemaker, and formerly belonged to and was past president of the Linwood Home Demonstration Club.

She enjoyed corresponding with her family, scrapbook making, reading, traveling and her farm.

Surviving are a daughter, Marcia Sledd (husband: Earl "Clay") of Delphi; two granddaughters, Amy Carnahan (husband: Mathew) of Wichita, Kan., and Stacy Post (husband: Scott) of Danville; a grandson, Timothy Sledd (wife: Angela) of Bedford; and great-grandchildren, Walter and Dorothy Carnahan, Mackenzie, Grayson and Parker Post, and Ella and Lily Sledd.

Mrs. Grant was preceded in death by her twin brother, William, and her half-sister, Marcelline.

Visitation will be Sept. 27 at 11 a.m. at Abbott Funeral Home in Delphi, until services begin at 1 p.m. Rev. Peg Nowling will officiate. Burial will be at Remington Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Carroll County Cancer Association. Envelopes are available at the funeral home.

### William H. Lane Jr.



William Henry Lane Jr., 85, of Bringhurst, a lifetime area resident, died at 12:15 p.m. Mon., Sept. 24, 2007, at Milner Community

Health Care Center, Rossville.

Born June 24, 1922, in Radnor, he was the son of William Henry and Hazel May Gugle Lane. He graduated from Burlington High School in 1940. On Jan. 1, 1941, in Logansport, he married Sara S. Starbuck, who survives.

Mr. Lane was a self-employed farmer in Burlington and Democrat townships. He also was a truck driver for Burlington Block Plant.

He was a member of Valley View Baptist Church in Flora.

An avid reader, he received honors for "most books read" from the Flora-Monroe Public Library. He was also an avid fisherman and hunter.

Surviving with his wife are two daughters, Mary Jo McAninch (husband: Keith) and Melody Kilty, all of Bringhurst; two sons, William Henry Lane III (wife: Galyna) of Kendallville and Jack Edward Lane of Bringhurst; 11 grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his half brother, Jack Loman.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Baker Funeral Home, Flora, with Pastor Bill Godbey officiating. Burial will be at Colburn Cemetery, Colburn. Visitation will be prior to the service on Thursday from 12 noon until 2 p.m.

Memorials may be made to Burlington Church of Christ Day Care.

Baker Funeral Home ([www.bakerfh.com](http://www.bakerfh.com)) is in charge of arrangements.

## Letters to the Editor

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of his. Now he wants Social Security on top of his very high income. He either needs to give up his job or leave his Social Security with the government so they can pay people who really need it. I can't believe the school board is so dumb and stupid to approve such a move. Remember, school board, election is coming up and you can be replaced.

Mr. Walker is just like the oil companies. GREEDY. I realize this letter is a waste of time since everything is already cut and dried. Wake up, school board, and do what the people want - not what you want. The majority doesn't rule in this world anymore, and this is just another proof of action.

Gene Welk, Camden

### Museum self-funding requires more time

I have struggled with my thoughts about the dilemma the County Council has imposed on the Carroll County Museum. Reducing the museum to a zero budget is a huge shock, especially with the end of funding coming within a mere three months.

Most of us have grown used to popping in at the museum and seeing Phyllis, the staff or volunteers working diligently in historical research, displaying records, or arranging artifacts. The museum also has a wide-ranging favorable reputation for its genealogy records. The staff has served thousands of people for 40 years now.

What if we didn't have this marvelous resource? Would we lose the tourism that brings people to our quaint town and county?

So what can we do? Can we restructure the Museum into a "pay as you go" venture, with those using it paying fees for the services they receive? Should visitors pay an admission fee?

Some county-wide museums do function without government help, although it is not easy. It requires not only a fee structure but major fundraising efforts and a big increase in memberships and donations. Getting that kind of support takes staff - and selfless, dedicated volunteers - to plan and carry out.

But the bottom line is that our museum cannot start paying its own way in three months. The ZERO budget on such short notice just cannot be justified. It immediately puts the burden of funding on the small Historical Society membership and those who use the museum. It might take several years to alleviate this dilemma. For the record, the Canal Association took 20 years to get its footing and begin to grow.

The Canal Board met last Tuesday. Having just heard the news of the Council's decision, we cautioned and came to this supporting decision. We will offer free space in the Canal Center and the support of our volunteer staff to host a fundraiser for the County Historical Society. We would love to

see this succeed and follow the pattern of most Historical Societies that do not derive any or much of their support from the county government.

I believe this can work BUT on a crash basis the monetary needs of the Museum cannot be met with only three months' notice.

Dan McCain, president of the Wabash & Erie Canal Association

### Believes civil rights are violated

In last week's *Comet*, Ron Kleckner wrote a thoughtful and persuasive argument against wasting Carroll County funds in a lawsuit with Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District. I personally do not want to see precious funds wasted on a losing effort. I want to go to court only as a last resort and only with a reasonable chance for success.

The best option is a compromise with TLRSD to address the worst grievances, especially the Rattlesnake Creek dumping plan. Compromise with TLRSD is non-existent, believe me I've tried. The board stubbornly refuses to engage in any reasonable discussion. Make no mistake about who is to blame for this mess. Let me repeat, it is the lack of compromise by TLRSD's Board of Trustees that brings us to the brink of court action.

What we can do about this board is to prepare a strong case against them. I have studied this board's history and actions. In my opinion they are vulnerable to a multitude of legal actions. Many free resources exist to help with this kind of effort including, but not limited to, Hoosier Environmental Council grants and the Indiana Civil Liberties Union.

It is a matter of public record, the original pro-Conservancy petition filed with the court did not mention TLRSD or challenge the district's authority. The recent Anti-Conservancy letter and attached petition mailed by TLRSD exposes the trustees abuse of office. Art Anderson, TLRSD treasurer, stated publicly that the conservancy does not affect the district's right to build its sewer. The sewer board trustees voted to use public funds to disrupt and impede a strictly Jefferson Township political process.

It is my opinion the sewer district's actions in the conservancy matter, amount to a civil rights violation. I have lodged a complaint with USDA, the source of their Federal funding. It has strict codes regarding civil rights. I am also asking the Department of Justice to look into this matter. If the Federal Bureau of Investigation finds any illegal actions then a lawsuit would be infinitely easier to win.

Carroll County can build its own limited lakeside sewer system and at a significant cost reduction. I am all for saving money and accomplishing everyone's goals. I think we can do this without TLRSD.

Gregory R. Smith  
Jefferson Township

## Animal

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mission members focus on spay/neuter education as well as attempt to provide animal control. She said a service called "The Neuter Scooter" has agreed to visit the county for a day to offer low-cost spay and neutering for cats.

Cassery said the service requires a building with two small rooms, hot and cold running water and no less than 100 cat patients. For \$40 each, a cat would be neutered and vaccinated for rabies. Either owned or feral cats would be accepted. Cassery said the service currently visits the Kokomo area monthly to provide the service.

The next animal control commission will be Oct. 10 at 9 a.m. at the Camden Community Building.

## Heritage

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- Space and funding issues for the county historical museum;
- Resources available to assist owners of nationally registered resources;
- Protection and preservation of unique architectural resources;
- How to capture memories stored in the minds of older citizens; and
- How to work with the county's heritage tourism committee to promote historic resources.

Members from the county historical society, preservation society, canal park and interpretive center, Adams Mill, the Camden Museum and the heritage transportation group, as well as any concerned community members not directly affiliated with a formal group are invited to attend the brainstorming meeting.

For information contact Maxwell at (765) 564-2169 or by e-mail at [b\\_maxwell@verizon.net](mailto:b_maxwell@verizon.net).

## Births

Randy and Kari Wireman of Brookston are parents of a 7-pound, 1-ounce daughter, Abigail Fay, born Sept. 20 at Lafayette Home Hospital. Maternal grandparents are Fonda and Kenny Buschman of Brookston and Harold Pendleton of Frankfort. Paternal grandparents are Linda and Babe Wireman of Medaryville. Maternal great-grandparents are Eartheil Brower and Leland Hanson, both of Flora.

Savannah Forgey and Jason Moore of Young America are parents of a 7-pound, 10 1/2-ounce daughter, Mariah Jewells Moore, born Sept. 21 at St. Joseph Hospital, Kokomo. Grandparents are Michael D. and Katherine Forgey of Galveston and Judy Nero of Kokomo. Great-grandparents are Robert "Gene" and Doris Harter of Camden, Dale and Mildred Forgey of Galveston, and Geraldine "Jewel" Moore of Kokomo.

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