

Drugs, guns and bombs found near Cutler

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Carroll County Sheriff's Department assisted the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Saturday night at a rural residence near Cutler. What was found at the address turned out to be a hidden drug lab, possible bomb-making operation and a stash of guns.

According to a press release issued from the DNR, conservation officers from seven counties, a federal alcohol, tobacco and firearms (ATF) agent and the Tippecanoe County Bomb Squad, along with local law enforcement, worked hours to gather evidence after two search warrants were issued for the premises.

Homeowner Jesse W. Snider, 27, and Justin M. Erdie, 28, of Lafayette were taken into custody at the scene. Also found were large amounts of cash and Chinese throwing stars.

Sheriff Tony Burns said that five local law enforcement officers were at the scene for several hours Sunday and Det. Kevin Hammond was on site all day.



Snider

Det. Steve Mullin of the sheriff's department provided testimony of probable cause to support issuance of an arrest warrant for Snider in Carroll Circuit Court. According to the document, Mullin stated he had cause to believe "that Jessie W. Snider committed the crime of possession of a destructive device, a Class C felony, possession of a machine gun, a Class C felony, dealing in marijuana, a Class D felony, possession of marijuana, a Class D felony, maintaining a common nuisance, a Class D felony, in Carroll County on or about Oct. 28."

The court document stated bomb-making materials were located in the pole barn on the property, an AR flare launcher and numerous items of military munitions such as flares, parachute flares, detonation cord or time fuse. Officers also located chemical protective suits, decontamination suits and chemical detection paper.

A chewing tobacco can containing C-4 was found in the house. A drop-in auto seat for AR-15 type weapons, as well as an AR-15 and an upper receiver for another AR-15 type weapon, were all found in the residence.

Approximately 16 marijuana plants with a weight in excess of thirty grams were found growing in one of the bedrooms in the house. The plants were attached to a hydroponics sys-



County residence site of drug and arms bust

This isolated residence located at 1246W CR400S was the scene of a multi-law enforcement investigation Saturday night. Responding to a call of shots fired, DNR officers discovered more than they bargained for and called Carroll County law enforcement for back-up, triggering two search warrants and help from the FBI and ATF agents among others. Comet photo by Debbie Lowe

tem, which automatically delivered water and nutrients to the plants. A sodium vapor light was attached to a timer in the same location with the plants and two shoeboxes were found containing green leafy plant-like material, which was identified by Hammond as marijuana in excess of 30 grams.

Snider was incarcerated in Carroll County Jail and his bond was set at \$253,000. He

posted bond and has been released, according to the sheriff's department.

No further information about the case was available at press time. DNR scheduled a press conference today, Wednesday, at 10 a.m. at 30 Professional Court, Suite 1, in Lafayette. Efforts to contact the Carroll County Prosecutor concerning this matter were unsuccessful.

Elections set in Delphi, Camden and Burlington

Comet staff report

The 2007 Municipal Election on Tuesday will affect voters in the City of Delphi and the towns of Camden and Burlington. Polls will open at 6 a.m. and close at 6 p.m.

Carroll County Clerk Laura Sterrett reminds voters that they will need to show state issued photo identification. She said voters will have the option of voting by paper ballot or by touch screen.

Those elected will take office on Jan. 1.

In the Delphi City Election, Mayor Lee Hoard, a Republican, is being challenged by Democrat Randy J. Strasser, a member of the city council.

The incumbent clerk, Janice K. Roe (D) is being challenged by Linda Gretter (R).

Vying for positions on the City Council are: District 2 - William "Bill" Miller (R) and Danny D. Sterrett (D). District 3 - Gayle Conner (R) and Brian Garrison (D). District 4 - John Hampton (R), incumbent, and Nelson B. Smith (D).

In District 1, Kyle P. Germond (R) is unopposed. Also unopposed is incumbent Coun-



Daylight Saving Time ends - turn your clocks back one hour Saturday night.



Mailing label goes here

cil-at-Large representative, Carolyn K. Pearson (R).

In the Council race, voters will be voting each district separately.

David Weckerly (R) is unopposed for city judge.

The Town of Burlington has nearly a full slate with only the judge position unopposed.

For clerk-treasurer, Progressive Party candidate Christy Shepherd is challenging incumbent Tammy L. Dyer of the Conservative Party.

Three Town Council at-large positions are being sought by Progressive candidates Stan Moore, Joe L. Armstrong, and Teddy A. Huffer and Conservative candidates Mark Keen, Frederick "Fred" Michael and Robert "Bob" Davis.

Davis and Dyer are the only incumbents.

John C. Adams, Progressive Party, has no opposition for judge.

Six candidates are seeking three available positions on the Camden Town Council. They are: Democrats Richard Fite, Ronald King and Pete Wagoner and Republicans Jeffery "Andy" Kelly, Jeff Sieber and Everett Snoeberger. Wagoner is the only incumbent.

Patricia A. Casserly (D) is unopposed for town clerk-treasurer.

Voters may vote by traveling board through 12 noon Monday. Voters may also vote in the Clerk's Office during regular hours today, Wednesday, and Friday and up to 12 noon Monday.

For questions, contact Sterrett at the clerk's office.

A corn cob by any other name

By Kevin Schnepf
Staff writer

If you've been north of Delphi lately, you may have noticed the cob piles at The Andersons Cob Mill have grown to be larger than usual this year. Or you may not be familiar with the large brown man-made mountains or why they exist. Either way, there's a good chance you're familiar with some products which have corn cobs in them.

Curt Brown of The Anderson's said 90 percent of the cobs at the mill came from local seed companies such as Select Seeds in Camden or Flora Seeds.

Once unloaded, the cobs are stored in large piles until needed for processing. He said the two large piles and one small heap weighed approximately 28,000 tons combined. It required about 1,400 trucks to haul them.

The mill processes most of its cobs for use as laboratory animal bedding. Other uses include pet bedding, cat litter, fur cleaning products, floor-drying material, chemical/pesticide carriers and sand blasting material. On rare occasions the business has supplied cobs for the production of cosmetics. Cobs are shipped worldwide in bags, trucks or on railcars.

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A bunch, no matter how you size it

This mountain of corn cobs at The Anderson's in Delphi required about 700 semi truck loads to form, or around 14,000 tons of cobs, according to Curt Brown from the mill. Two other mounds at the mill combined weigh in at another 14,000 tons. Brown said approximately 90 percent of the cobs come from local suppliers such as Select Seeds in Camden or Flora Seeds. The mill is the only one of its kind in Indiana. Although not the largest supply of cobs the mill has stocked, more were accumulated this year than typical due to demands for more corn for ethanol production. Brown said stocking more cobs was no problem. "Nothing is wasted," he said. "The material has many great uses." Those uses include food, medicine, bedding and makeup. Comet photo by Kevin Schnepf

Delphi man dies five days after industrial accident

By Kevin Schnepf
Staff writer

Sam Kemp, 36, of Delphi, died Oct. 29 from injuries he sustained in an industrial accident.

According to information from the Mining Safety and Health Administration

(MSHA), an assistant quarry superintendent at U.S. Aggregates in Delphi was seriously injured Oct. 24 while attempting to remove a loader bucket tooth which had become lodged in a crusher. A jack that helps relieve pressure on crusher components kicked out, causing the handle to strike

the victim on his head. He died Monday of the injuries.

Kemp had been employed at the Delphi Quarry for 17 years and became assistant superintendent in 1999.

According to U.S. Aggregates representative Marcia Norris, Kemp was considered a loyal, dedicated, hard-working

employee, held in high regard by his superiors and those he supervised.

MSHA informed the *Comet* Tuesday the agency was aware of the incident but could not release further information at this time.



Kemp

Local schools unsure what to think yet

Property tax reform seeks to cut overspending

By Kevin Schnepf
Staff writer

Many Hoosiers are aware of the effects of overspending and living in debt. In addition to personal financial challenges that make getting by difficult, the last thing most need is higher taxes. A proposed property tax reform plan could ease the financial burden placed on Indiana taxpayers.

Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels said overspending on school construction, libraries, fire departments and all other local services is rising faster than patrons' incomes. Daniels called to shift more responsibility to the shoulders of taxing

entities to curb frivolous spending and cut operating costs.

"Any plan that makes a real difference in property taxation will have to go to its root cause, and that is excessive spending," Daniels stated in a speech last week.

The governor scrambled to offer a reform proposal when property tax assessments skyrocketed this year. He outlined plans to "cut and cap" taxes and spending, raise the sales tax one percent, ditch the state's outdated assessment system, provide voter referendums for large spending requests and make some local costs the state's responsibility among other details.

Information provided on the governor's Web site at www.in.gov/gov/3105.htm lists 30 taxing bodies and the amounts they've indebted their patrons for projects. Figures ranged from \$25.5 million dollars for White County Hospital to almost \$130 million dollars for Avon schools in Hendricks County. Lafayette School Corporation was shown to have borrowed \$40.5 million dollars.

Carroll Consolidated School Corporation Superintendent John Sayers said his school district was careful to function without incurring large debt the past few years. He was concerned the reform proposal

might not support the state's financial goals without borrowing money from other funds or replacing already-borrowed money from such sources as the teachers' retirement fund.

"I am concerned we're replacing a predictable source of income with one which could fluctuate with the economy," Sayers said Tuesday. "Whether the changes are beneficial or harmful will depend on how the economy ebbs and flows."

Delphi Community School Corporation is in the process of prioritizing updates and upgrades to its facilities. Debt perhaps as high as \$20 million could be issued. Administrators say many items on the corpora-

tion's renovation list are needs, not wants, but the reform proposal could impact the district's plans.

Efforts to contact DCSC Interim Superintendent Steve Sailor were unsuccessful. When asked about Daniels' call for voter referendums on all significant spending projects, DCSC Board President Robert Resler said he believed the school already had a suitable system in place.

"We have talked amongst ourselves and at regional meetings," Resler said Friday. "We have that now with the remonstrance process."

The balance of what to do

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