

# Top secret aircraft arrives at Grissom Air Museum

In early November a sleek, black aircraft rolled into Miami County, compliments of Guyer the Mover.

An extremely rare and exotic Lockheed D-21 drone is the newest addition to the continually expanding collection of aircraft at the Grissom Air Museum. The aircraft is on loan from The National Museum of The United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio, where John Guyer II and a group of museum volunteers picked it up. On short notice, Merritt's Truck and Auto Repair of Kokomo donated their resources to unload the aircraft from the flatbed.

This is the first "top secret" aircraft the museum has in its collection.

"When we receive an aircraft, one of the first things we do is research its history," said museum director Andy Cougill of Delphi. "The D-21 is difficult because of its 'cloak and dagger' background. Although a lot of information has been released, there aren't many people who worked with them or saw them in use."

Patterned after the world's fastest airplane, the SR-71

Blackbird, the D-21 is sleek and aerodynamic. Lockheed engineers used the same technology on both aircraft, giving the drone a top speed over Mach 3 and a ceiling of nearly 100,000 feet. As a matter of fact the D-21 was initially designed to launch from the back of specially configured SR-71s. The D-21 carried highly sensitive reconnaissance equipment to spy on Communist China. After completing its mission, the D-21 would jettison its film to be recovered by another airplane, then self-destruct in the ocean.

Only 38 of the one-time use drones were produced. Their existence remained secret until the mid-1970s and their history unknown into the 1980s. Of the 38 produced, fewer than 10 are on display around the world.

Cougill pointed out that Grissom Air Museum is among an elite handful of museums fortunate enough to display this exotic aircraft. Because of the unique composites used in its construction, the D-21 must be housed indoors and is currently housed in the museum's conservation hangar.

"We have never taken guests to our storage facility, but we are very excited to share this aircraft with the public," said Cougill.

Museum visitors can tour the aircraft on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. Regular museum admission applies, and visitors must walk a short distance to the secured hangar.

Ultimately the museum will announce a building campaign in 2008 that will allow the D-21 and many other artifacts to be displayed at the museum itself.

"The future here at the museum is very bright, and we are proud to have the National Museum of The United States Air Force offering us incredible aircraft to display."

Grissom Air Museum is located 15 miles north of Kokomo on US 31. The museum is currently open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. The museum will close for the season on Dec. 22 and will reopen in mid-February.

Call (765) 689-8011 or visit [GrissomAirMuseum.com](http://GrissomAirMuseum.com) for more information.

*This story and photo were provided by Grissom Air Museum.*



## Rare cargo

Guyer the Mover donated the transportation of this unique load to Grissom Air Museum, where it is on display. The size of the D-21 required it to be sharply angled on the back of the trailer. Photo provided

# Free materials available to help those with small woodlots

## Comet staff report

Homeowners with small woodlots or backyard woods can get help in managing their valuable resource with a packet of information called the Indiana Woodlot Owners Series.

The series includes 13 publications on how to make a master

plan for your woodlot include how to operate a chainsaw safely, protect property from wildfire, identify and manage hazardous trees, keep woods healthy, attract wildlife and protect clean water. In addition, packet materials show how to help preferred trees grow, prune trees, plant trees, grow and col-

lect special forest products, generate wood products, and protect trees from construction damage.

The series, developed by the U.S. Forest Service and Indiana DNR's Division of Forestry, also contains a Small Woodlot Owner Consultant Directory with names and contact information of consultants who will advise homeowners on small woodlot parcels, which are typically 10 acres or less.

Visit [www.in.gov/dnr/forestry](http://www.in.gov/dnr/forestry) to read or print the publications. To have the entire set mailed to you, call the urban forestry office at (317) 915-9390 or email [plouks@dnr.in.gov](mailto:plouks@dnr.in.gov).

# Indiana communities put trees to work

## Comet staff report

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Division of Forestry awarded 13 "Putting Trees to Work" grants totaling \$100,000 to Hoosier cities, towns, and nonprofits.

The funds are part of a grant awarded to the IDNR Community and Urban Forestry (CUF) program by the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area in 2007.

The City of Delphi received funding through the grant. The city will remove risk trees and plant replacements according to IDNR.

"These grant projects will enable cities and towns to implement a variety of urban forestry management activities that will result in healthier urban forests," Pam Louks, CUF coordinator said. "This is important

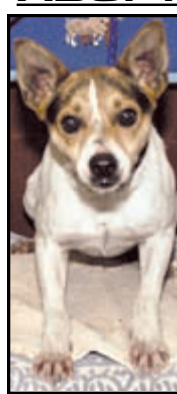
because the urban forest cleans the air we breathe and the water we drink."

IDNR received 31 grant requests totaling over \$256,000 but only had \$100,000 to award this year.

"All the projects were worthy, but, only a few made the cut," Louks added.

Projects are scheduled for begin in spring 2008. For more information on urban forestry, contact Louks at (317) 915-9390 or [plouks@dnr.in.gov](mailto:plouks@dnr.in.gov).

## ADOPT-A-PET



This tricolor Fox Terrier is very friendly. The one year-old is house broken, loves people and gets along

great with other animals. For more information, call the Delphi Veterinary Clinic at (765) 564-2606.

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## District award winners



Carroll County residents recently earned top honors from Area 4 Special Olympics. Kevin and Kay Goyer and their daughters, Darlene and Sadonna, of Delphi were honored as the Family of the Year. Athlete of the Year was Doug McCarty of Flora. The award winners were chosen for their dedicated participation in Special Olympics from the 11 counties that comprise Area 4. The winners will be considered for state awards. Pictured are (l-r): Kay Goyer, Carroll County Coordinator Mary McCarty, Doug McCarty, and Area 4 Director Gary Boardman. Photo provided

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# Carroll County Chamber of Commerce congratulates Water Tower Place on the opening of their affordable new apartment homes.

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