

Highway supervisor announces resignation

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

What started out as a resignation announcement by Carroll County Highway Supervisor Ramzi Awwad turned into a verbal attack on three county council members present at the Monday night commissioners' meeting.

Awwad said "greater opportunities and challenges had presented themselves elsewhere," as he told commissioners he would be vacating the county position in one month.

"We thank you for your service," commissioners' president Loren Hylton said to Awwad. "We wish you the best."

"I think you've done an outstanding job," commissioner Bill Brown said.

However, as the discussion centered on road issues connected with the dairy to be built in Democrat Township, Brown declared the current system of repairing county roads inadequate.

"We're going to have to decide if we want roads in the county," he said. "What we're doing now doesn't work. It is a failure."

Brown then lashed out at council members Ann Brown, Steve Ashby and Ron Slavens, who were in attendance.

"You people on the council - you screwed up," he shouted as he pointed to the council representatives. "He needed a raise," he continued, referring to Awwad.

Commissioners will meet in executive session April 23 at 10 a.m. to discuss a plan to replace Awwad.

Another dairy for county?

Carroll County Economic Development Director Daryl Smith requested support in negotiating with the Indiana Department of Transportation to keep CR 225E open. The current plan is for the road to become a dead end when the Hoosier Heartland Highway is built.

County resident Grace Woodruff alleged EDC wanted to petition INDOT to keep the road intact because another dairy is being planned in that area of the county.

Smith suggested additional industry in the county would be beneficial. He said he will meet with INDOT officials April 23 at 9 a.m. to discuss the matter.

Woodruff requested commissioners

require Vreba-Hoff, funders for the dairy slated for Democrat Township, to contribute monetarily to improve and maintain roads their trucks will use. She said projected truck volume information requested from Awwad several weeks ago had not been received. Awwad has been communicating with dairy representatives about road issues.

Commissioner George Mears said he met with the Vreba-Hoff engineer and county surveyor Wayne Chapman April 4 to discuss drainage in Democrat Township.

"When it's all said and done, the load on our present drains will be better," he said.

Mears said dairy drainage plans will be presented at the May 7, 8:30 a.m. drainage board meeting.

County resident Jerry Carter distributed information about two dairies in Indiana that recently experienced manure spills. He told the county leaders they could expect the same from the Vreba-Hoff dairy.

Woodruff said Vreba-Hoff has had many complaints and violations lodged against its various dairies in other states.

"How can you invite Vreba-Hoff with their record into Carroll County?" she asked Smith. "This (dairy) is not in the best interest of the citizens of Carroll County."

EMS

Increased rates and billing and collections policies and procedures for Emergency Medical Services were approved, effective immediately.

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County marketing strategy is community forum topic

Comet staff report

Two specialists will explain how to market Carroll County for economic development at a Carroll County at the Crossroads/Focus on the Future community forum set for April 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center, Delphi.

Richard Heupel and Bob St. Claire will address the forum that is being sponsored by the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, Carroll County Economic Development Corporation, and Carroll County Community Foundation.

Heupel, who is senior project director for the Office of Building Better Communities at Ball State University, has over 20 years experience leading economic development organizations. Prior to his arrival at Ball State in 2004, he spent 12 years with Hoosier Energy,

leaving as manager of member and key accounts, with responsibility for the electric utility's economic development and key accounts functions. He also led the county and regional economic development organizations and foundations based in Portland and Merrillville, Indiana, and Mansfield, Ohio.

Heupel served as president of the Mid America Economic Development Council in 2000 and the Indiana Economic Development Association in 2005. Selected past affiliations include the boards of directors of the Bloomington Economic Development Corporation, the Indiana Statewide Certified Development Corporation, and the East Central Indiana Private Industry Council. He also served on the Dean's Advisory Council for the Valparaiso University College of Business Administration and as a mem-

ber of the Indiana Main Street Council.

Heupel graduated from the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma in 1988 and earned a Certified Economic Developer designation in 1989 from the International Economic Development Council.

St. Claire is president and CEO of the St. Claire Group, a firm based in Indianapolis, specializing in strategic planning and strategic marketing planning. With over 20 years of strategic planning experience, St. Claire has assisted clients of diverse background, including organizations in the health care, electric utility, commercial real estate, and financial services industries. Small companies as well as Fortune 500 firms have drawn on his perspectives.

St. Claire has been a featured
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YMCA Healthy Kids Day



Children who attended Healthy Kids Day at the Carroll County YMCA last Saturday had a chance to jump in the Moon Bounce, have their faces painted, get a free T-shirt, and learn all kinds of ways to live healthy lives. Parents could pick up a variety of helpful literature including "A Parent's Guide to Protecting Your Family" and "Raising Healthy Kids - a Month-by-Month Guide." Everyone there received a free pork-

burger. A number of health-related booths were set up. In the accompanying photo,

Mann shows Austin Taylor how to properly brush his teeth. Comet photos by Jennifer Archibald



Delphi Art Show gets creative juices flowing

By Kevin Schnepf
Staff writer

Delphi Community School Corporation, in cooperation with Tri Kappa Sorority, will present the 51st annual Jack Sanders' Delphi Art Show May 6-10 in the high school commons.

The show's theme will be "Pig-casso" and this year's show will include a special exhibit of decorated cement pigs. Forty-two area businesses and organizations will participate in this unique exhibit.

The decorated pigs will be auctioned off on May 6 at 3 p.m. in the Little Theatre at the high school. Superintendent Ralph Walker will serve as auctioneer. Proceeds will benefit the Delphi Fine Arts Council.

The "Pig-casso" exhibit is funded through a donation by Indiana Packers Corporation.

A special purchase award preview show will be held the night before the exhibit opens. Purchase award sponsors are committed to buying a certain amount of art for sale at the exhibit. The Fine Arts Council is funded by the purchase award show. Proceeds go toward the support of artists in residency and visiting artists.

Tri Kappa will provide refreshments, security and \$1 million liability coverage for the show.

On display during the week will be works of art from professional local and Indiana artists: Watercolor - Rena Brouwer, Axie Frey and Terry Lacy; photography - Alan Mc-

Connell and John Replogle; pottery - Mary Firestone, Diana Mud, April El Naggar and Gene Speicher; charcoal - Steve Blume; and jewelry - Beth Shoaf and Mariya Zhalnina.

The show will also include an exhibit of local artists as well as the Delphi Art Club, which will display the works of its members. Every art student in kindergarten through grade 12 will feature a piece of art in the show.

Organizer Sherri Cripe said elementary students studied the works and life of Pablo Picasso the entire semester in preparation for the event. Students wrote expressive poems to go along with their paintings, as well as a collaborative story.

"It's all about the kids," Cripe said. "This is an amazing show that offers great opportunity for creativity."

The exhibit opens May 6, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. with an opening tea and demonstrations by elementary art students. The show is free and open to the public. It will be open May 7 through 10 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

County may have less to spend in 2007

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

According to Michael Dart, general counsel for the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF), the 2007 budget submitted by Carroll County was tentatively approved but reduced by \$337,824.

When DLGF compared the

reported budgeted amount with the revenue amount, the difference of \$337,824 was removed from the spending to match county revenue.

"By law, we have to reduce the county's budgeted spending to equal the amount of revenue available," Dart explained.

County officials have until April 25 to respond to the

DLGF action. An explanation of additional revenues could be used to modify the amount of reduction. Failure on the part of the county to respond by the date given will result in a final approval and \$337,824 less in county coffers to spend.

County council meets in special session April 20 at 8 a.m. to discuss an additional appropriation.

Child exploitation trial begins

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

The jury trial for the accused in a child exploitation case began in earnest Monday morning. Jury selection was the first order of business, but

finding a jury of 12 proved to be a difficult task for the court.

Leon Sprinkle, 49, was charged in 2006 with one count of child exploitation and five counts of possession of child pornography. Those charges were separated in an April 3 hearing which resulted in two separate trials for the same defendant.

According to Carroll Circuit Court Judge Donald Currie at the beginning of Monday's proceeding, due to media coverage by local news outlets, a longer list of potential jurors was selected. Currie divided the jury pool into two groups; those who claimed knowledge of the case via media and those who did not.

First, 12 jury members were sought from the group claiming no knowledge of the case. The pool of approximately 21 was exhausted by noon, due to questions raised by both defense counsel, Patrick Manahan, and county prosecutor Tricia Thompson. Several seats remained to be filled as every-

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Camden adopts sidewalk replacement program

Comet staff report

Camden Town Council agreed to expand its sidewalk replacement program at a meeting held April 10.

President Pete Wagoner complimented Clerk-Treasurer Pat Casserly for all the research she had done on other communities' requirements. She said that some cities had specific ordinances, while others were more general. Most, she said, required a 50-50 match and bid out the work.

Following discussion, the Council directed town attorney Anne Briggs to draw up an ordinance requiring property owners to be responsible for 50 percent of the costs of replacement, with the town responsible for the remaining 50

percent. If a property owner's costs exceed \$600, he/she will be offered a payment plan of 24 equal monthly payments. If the cost is less than \$600, a 12-month payment option will be offered. A \$100 deposit will be required and a lien will be placed on the property to ensure payment.

Property owners may still have the option of doing the labor themselves. The town will continue to reimburse at \$4 per lineal foot.

The sidewalk replacement program will be a one-year trial program. The town's share of expenses will not exceed \$7,500.

The town and Jackson Township will share costs equally to repair Jackson Township Park Drive. The

drive is used as a way into the park and as access by the town to the well building. The Council approved a formal agreement between the two entities.

Casserly gave an update on the progress made following letters to property owners in violation of the nuisance ordinance. She said 28 have completed clean-up, while two still need to be addressed. Marshal John Chapman will follow-up with a visit and/or additional letter.

The town concentrated its efforts first on properties with junk vehicles, improperly plated vehicles, and unsightly properties. The next area of concentration will be buildings in poor repair.

Briggs will review Camden's ordinance and reference state

statute to strengthen it. She was also instructed to pattern a junk vehicle ordinance for Camden similar to one adopted by Delphi.

Jeff Sieber reported on plans for the two-day 175th celebration. He said the officers met in April and will hold a general meeting in May. Sieber's request to close Cumberland Street between Water and Armstrong streets, an area to be utilized for entertainment, was approved. Sieber said that a grant was secured from Duke Energy that will provide for activities from Conner Prairie.

Wagoner announced that Camden Elementary School will serve only kindergarten and pre-school students beginning in the fall and will be re-

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