

Burns sets his sights on 2nd drug K-9

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

After taking office in January, Carroll County Sheriff Tony Burns realized the county's explosives detection (bomb-sniffing) K-9 was not being utilized to full potential. He made the decision to retire that dog, which leaves just one K-9 unit, the narcotics detection (drug sniffing) dog with handler Deputy Mike Thomas.

Thomas is assigned to the day shift with his dog. According to Burns, the dog suffered a broken foot while tracking approximately 18 months ago and is no longer able to provide tracking services.

However, Burns is convinced there is a place for a second narcotics detection K-9 which is cross-trained to track those who flee or who are lost in the community.

Burns announced he is on the scent for a new dog in a solicitation letter for donations sent to local organizations, businesses and individuals in April. A new dog will cost \$12,000.

"There is too much work for one dog and one handler," Burns said. "A dog is just another tool for law enforcement to use. I'd like to have the new dog by mid-to-late summer."

Burns said he has \$4,200 to fund two dogs in his budget. He said the county pays the handler for dog food and is responsible for veterinary bills

and provides a kennel and a vehicle for the animal. Equipment from the retired dog will be utilized as much as possible Burns said.

The new dog and handler, Tony Liggett, would work nights after undergoing five-week handler/dog training. The training will take place at the kennel operation where the dog

Food drive celebrates 15th year

Carroll County letter carriers to help Stamp Out Hunger!

Comet staff report

Carroll County letter and rural carriers will join forces Saturday with the Campbell Soup Company as part of the National Association of Letter Carriers' *Stamp Out Hunger!* Food drive. Now in its 15th year, the *Stamp Out Hunger!* effort is the nation's largest single-day food drive, having collected more than 765 million pounds of food since its inception in 1993.

To help *Stamp Out Hunger!* in Carroll County, leave a sturdy bag containing non-perishable foods, such as canned soup, canned vegetables, pasta, rice, or cereal next to the mailbox prior to the time of regular mail delivery on May 12. Food may also be dropped off at the local post office. Food items

should be in non-breakable containers, such as boxes and cans. All the food collected in Carroll County will be distributed through food pantries in Carroll County.

According to America's Second Harvest - the Nation's Food Bank Network, 35 million people are food insecure,

hungry, or at risk of hunger. Approximately one in four people in a soup kitchen line is a child.

Campbell is kicking off the food drive effort by donating one million pounds of food to food banks across the country.

For more information, contact the local post office.

Public invited to learn about INDOT's operations, programs

Comet staff report

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) is inviting the public to learn more about the agency and its operations at the annual LaPorte District meeting. Every year, each of INDOT's six districts holds a meeting to provide information and answer questions about the state's transportation agency. During the meeting, the public is invited to share comments, meet the INDOT LaPorte District staff, and visit with local and regional legislators.

The meeting will be held from 2:30-4 p.m. and 5:30-7 p.m. (Central time) May 24 at

the LaPorte District Office, 315 E. Boyd Boulevard (one-quarter mile east of U.S. 35) in LaPorte.

Attendees will learn about the Indiana Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (INSTIP), federal aid for local programs and a LaPorte District Projects Update. The meeting also will feature an open house area where the public can learn about a number of state transportation issues - INDOT's rail, air, transit, transportation enhancement and historic bridge programs.

If unable to attend, comment packets are available by calling Marcia Blansett at (219) 325-7564.

Other business: A one-year contract with Maximus was approved. The firm will provide government reimbursement consulting services to the county.

Emergency Management Agency Director Justin Darling was granted permission to submit a Homeland Security grant for \$17,902.

Land was re-zoned south of the Sportsman Restaurant on Lake Freeman for a planned unit development.

Shafer Freeman Lakes Environmental Conservation Corporation was granted permission to participate in a feasibility study to raise the Tioga Pedestrian Bridge on behalf of Carroll County.

Marion Hathaway was appointed to Camden-Jackson Township Library Board.

Commissioners will meet in a work session May 21 at 1 p.m. to discuss Economic Development Income Tax distributions. The public is invited to attend.

The next commissioners' meeting will be May 21 at 9 a.m.

Drainage Board
Vreba-Hoff Dairy representative David Gerdeman P.E. presented a final detailed drainage plan for the proposed facility in Democrat Township. He reviewed plans for a retention basin and manure lagoons with concerned citizens. He said soil from the excavations will be used on-site for construction of the facility.

"We have the advantage to significantly improve the drainage in the area," Gerdeman said noting the county has no drainage ordinances to satisfy.

County surveyor Wayne Chapman said the dairy would affect the John Brook and George Primer drains. Clean runoff will eventually empty into the Middlefork drain.

Gerdeman said there would be no negative effect to surrounding land or water areas.

"There will be no impact on wetlands," he said. "If I'm not telling you the truth, my license could be pulled."

He explained a four-foot deep exploratory trench will be dug completely around the perimeter of the dairy to discover hidden tiles. Those discovered will be re-routed.

Chapman said the drains outside of the facility will become the responsibility of the county to maintain while those inside the facility will be maintained by the dairy operator.

Drainage board members commissioners Brown, Hylton and George Mears took the plan under advisement. No approval was issued. The matter will be discussed at the next drainage board meeting scheduled for June 4 at 8:30 a.m.

Obituaries

Evelyn C. Sharp



Evelyn C. Sharp, 99, of Camden, died May 4, 2007, in Longmont, Colo. Born on Dec. 21, 1907, in Frankfort,

she was the daughter of Valentine Franklin and Mamie Osterday Cohee. She was raised in Indiana and graduated from Camden High School. She attended Indiana Teacher's College in Indianapolis (Madame Blaker's), where she received a teaching degree. She taught at Washington and Carrollton township schools in Carroll County.

On June 30, 1929, in Camden, she married James M. Sharp. They resided in Camden, except for six years when they owned and operated a grocery store in Michigantown.

Mrs. Sharp was a member of the First Baptist Church of Camden for 86 years and was an active member of the Baptist Woman's Missionary Circle. She was a 70-year member of the Camden Woman's Literary Club, which founded the Camden Public Library.

Surviving are three children, Robert G. Sharp (wife: Barbara) of Hamilton, Va., Bill Sharp (wife: Peg) of Longmont, Colo., and Marcia Beckett (husband: Mike) of Oklahoma City, Okla.; five grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a nephew, Dennis D. Laxton.

She was preceded in death by her husband; a sister, Frances Laxton, a grandson, and a great-grandson.

Services will be held at 3 p.m. today, Wednesday, at Cree Funeral Home, Camden. Pastor Paul Marcellino will officiate. Interment will follow at Camden Cemetery. Friends may call prior to the service from 1 to 3 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First Baptist Church of Camden or to the Camden Public Library.

Charles G. Welk

Charles G. "Bill" Welk, 85, formerly of Rossville, passed away May 4, 2007, at 8:30 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center in Delphi. He had been a resident there since November 2004, and in failing health the past two weeks.

Mr. Welk was born Jan. 2, 1922, in Minot, N.D., to Mervin and Ethel Elizabeth Moore Welk. His marriage was to Mary Ellen Miller on her parents' farm Nov. 28, 1946, and she survives.

He attended the former Monitor High School and was a member of North Fork Old German Baptist Brethren Church in Pymont.

Mr. Welk built new homes for the former Munger Construction Co. of Lafayette and also worked for the former Best Built Construction Co. of Lafayette. Afterward he was a self-employed carpenter and worked in the trade for 50 years.

Surviving with his wife are a son, Leon Welk (wife: Linda) and a daughter, Linda Wise (husband: Fred), all of Delphi; three brothers, Floyd Welk (wife: Edith), Marlin Welk (wife: Edna) and Galen Welk (wife: Donnabelle), and a sister, Nellie Kessler, all of Rossville; four grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Richard Welk, and a great-granddaughter, Marlee Jo Abbott.

Services were held May 6 at North Fork Old German Baptist Brethren Church in Pymont with home brethren officiating. Burial was at North Fork Church Cemetery.

Abbott Funeral Home in Delphi was in charge of arrangements.

Delphi

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was re-zoned from central business to residential.

The Delphi Airport Board of Aviation sent a letter of intent to apply to the FAA for \$775,000 discretionary money. FAA officials solicited the letter. The money would be used to reconstruct the existing runway prior to a runway expansion.

The next city council meeting will be June 4 at 7 p.m. The next board of works meeting will be May 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Otis A. Beamer



Otis A. "Junior" Beamer, 77, of Camden, died at 7:15 a.m. May 3, 2007, at his residence. Born July 1, 1929, in Young America, he was the son of Otis A. Sr. and Esther L. Curtis Beamer. His marriage was to Doris Jean Cohee and she survives.

He was an U.S. Army veteran of the Korean Conflict, serving in the 42nd Engineers Battalion from 1951 to 1953.

Mr. Beamer was employed for 25 years at Mann Chevrolet in Flora, working as a certified Chevrolet technician. He worked five years with the Carroll County Highway Department.

He was a member of the Camden United Methodist Church, American Legion Post 413 at Camden, Camden Preservation Society, I.O.O.F. Lodge #28 at Delphi, Mount Zion Lodge #211, F&AM, at Camden, and the Camden Cemetery Board.

Services were held Monday at the Camden United Methodist Church. Pastor Dan Gottschalk officiated. Burial with military graveside rites by the Camden American Legion Post was at Camden Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Camden United Methodist Church, Camden-Jackson Township Public Library, or Camden Cemetery Association.

Cree Funeral Home, Camden, was in charge of arrangements.

Alice M. Prater

Alice Marie Prater, 66, of Bringham, died at 5 a.m. Tues., May 8, 2007, at her residence.

Born June 11, 1940, in Kokomo, she was the daughter of James and Mary Bell Rexroat Williams. She attended Indianapolis public schools. On Sept. 14, 1957, in Castleton, she married Charles LeRoy Prater, who survives.

Mrs. Prater was a homemaker. She belonged to book clubs and enjoyed cake decorating, playing the lottery, playing cards, reading, gardening, and country music.

Surviving with her husband are five daughters, Teresa Peters (husband: Jeff) of Camden, Debbie Prater of Bringham, Rhonda Collins of Plymouth, Pam French (husband: Greg) of Camden, and Mary Jones (husband: Jeff) of Plymouth; four sons, Jim Prater of Flora, Chuck Prater (wife: Samantha) of Camden, Shawn Prater of Kokomo, and Mike Prater (wife: Jennifer) of Bringham; lifelong friend, Phyllis Boyles; a sister, Patty Ann Murray of Greenwood; 23 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a son, Paul Eric Prater.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Neptune Funeral Home, Burlington. Pastor Dan Butcher will officiate. Burial will be at Burlington Cemetery. Calling will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made to the Carroll County American Cancer Society or VNS Health Care System, with envelopes available at the funeral home.

Mabel B. Campbell

Mabel B. Campbell, 87, of Monticello, passed away at 2:20 p.m. Wednesday, May 2, 2007, at the White County Memorial Hospital in Monticello.

She was born Aug. 29, 1919, in Sheridan, to Hess Homer and Izora Fausnight Hines. She graduated from Sheridan High School in 1937 and married Joseph Kemp Campbell on Aug. 20, 1939 in Kempton. He preceded her in death on Oct. 8, 1998.

Mrs. Campbell was a homemaker and seamstress. She was a member of the Main Street Methodist Church in Kokomo and had been very active with church bazaars, was a Sunday School teacher, and was also active in her adult Sunday School class.

She is survived by two sons, Richard H. Campbell of Gulf Shores, Ala., and Donald L. Campbell of Florence, Italy; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

She was preceded in death by one sister and three brothers.

Graveside services were held Sunday at Crown View Cemetery in Sheridan.

Reinke Funeral Home, Flora, was in charge of arrangements.

Flora

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needs to replace two tankers. They are working with a grant writer to secure funding.

The VFD's recent Pancake and Sausage Breakfast fundraiser for Relay for Life was reported a success with \$1,083 raised. Leftover pork patties will be sold during the event as pizza burgers.

Dwayne Pirtle said work continues on the memorial board to honor all those who have served on the Flora VFD. Anyone who knows of someone who served is asked to contact the town office.

Sisson reported that the park board will put in an additional practice diamond at the park. Donations have already been secured for the project.

The police department's report for April included 13 arrests, 2 felonies, 22 citations, 1 parking violation, 38 warnings, 88 calls for service, and 5 accidents investigated.

The department participated in the recent Indiana State Police county-wide interdiction.

Sgt. James Bishop said that there has been mischief reported at the park. He asked parents to talk to their kids and be watchful.

"When kids tear up the park it costs everybody money," said Ayres. "Don't do it."

A quote from Liquid Engineering in the amount of \$2,400 was approved to paint

and repair pitting at the park water tower. A quote from Scrub-A-Home Inc. in the amount of \$4,600 was approved to wash the outside and apply a mold barrier to the same tower.

Town attorney Dick T. Bishop has reviewed an agreement with a new fireworks company that will put on a "better display" for the same cost as last year. Ayres said the cost is \$6,500 with Flora Community Club offsetting the amount by \$1,500.

Excel Co-op recently spread fertilizer on the Flora Airport runway at no charge to the town.

The quote for \$7,655.06 submitted by Skiles Electric for fire detectors and alarms, plus installation, at the Community Center was approved. Monitoring is an additional charge. Clerk-Treasurer Joretta Tinsman reported that monitoring for the Fireside Building is approximately \$400 per year.

Six building permits were issued in April: Todd Trent, Tom and Beth Curtis, and April Forrest, all fences; Jeremiah Stevens, room addition; Michael Whitham, fence and garage; and Jeff Hodson, deck.

The town office will be closed May 28 in observance of Memorial Day.

The next council meeting will be at 6 p.m. June 4.

WeatherHawk

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readings, rainfall and accumulated rainfall amounts, times of sunrise and sunset and moon rise and moon set, heat index, and more.

Briggs said she talked with members of the community to see if the WeatherHawk might be helpful to various segments. She said she had positive responses from farmers, firefighters, and emergency responders.

"Farmers have always been big weather watchers," said Paul Marcellino, Extension Educator/Ag.

He said local weather information, such as wind speed, barometric pressure, and rainfall amounts could be helpful for farming operations and record keeping, especially for farmers within a five-mile radius of the school.

Scott Sisson, chief of the Flora Volunteer Fire Department, said information from

the WeatherHawk, such as wind direction and speed, would be helpful in fire fighting and in the case of a hazardous materials spill.

Before, the department has consulted the flight service station at Purdue, Grissom, weather service in Indianapolis, or the National Weather Service. Sisson said now they'll have a local source of weather information.

Emergency Management Director Justin Darling said he has the WeatherHawk station up and running all the time in the county's emergency operations center.

"It will be a real asset to have real-time temperature, humidity, and wind direction during severe weather conditions, and in emergency and hazardous materials situations," Darling said. He added that emergency management also uses stored data, which the WeatherHawk can provide.

Shana Bordner, PTO treasurer, said the community supports the PTO and school through trash bag sales, Market Day sales, and the collection of General Mills box tops. Those projects made it possible for the PTO to purchase the WeatherHawk and web cam at a total cost of \$2,486.13. She said the PTO liked the idea of purchasing something that would be of value to all grade levels and to the community.

The WeatherHawk web site address is: <http://intranet.carroll.k12.in.us/weatherhawk>.

Road

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CR400W;

- The town of Deer Creek; and
- CR150S from CR9E to CR200E.

A comprehensive list of roads, the cost of each and the number of miles to receive work can be obtained and/or viewed at the county highway garage in Flora. The garage telephone number is (574) 967-4244.

Speed limit ordinance

Revisions to the recently adopted speed limit ordinance were presented. Commissioners' attorney Barry Emerson will review the revisions and prepare them for adoption at the May 21 commissioners' meeting.

Changes include 30 mph in residential neighborhoods, 55 mph on un-posted roads, 55 mph on the Carrollton Rd. and 25 mph on the Adams Mill Bridge Rd. from CR500S to CR400S. Awwad said the goal is to post all gravel roads at 45 mph.

Weight restrictions

Brown asked county sheriff Tony Burns to formulate a plan to enforce the county's traffic ordinance. It was suggested the frost law be enforced to help decrease the amount of road damage done by large farm equipment and trucks used in residential development.

"I really don't know what the answer is," Burns said. "Right now, I don't have the staff."

Finance committee

Brown gave a report of his meeting with the county council-initiated finance committee. He reviewed the list of recommendations set forth by council-committee members Ann Brown, Steve Ashby and Ron Slavens. Recommendations included to raise rates at Carroll Manor and for Emergency Medical Service (ambulance runs), account for all county museum monies and 'cut all new projects.'

Brown said he was unable to ascertain from committee members what "cut all new projects" meant.

"I don't feel like any of these recommendations really fix the problem," he stated. "I do not believe it (the problem) has a thing to do with the treasurer and the auditor not balancing out. There is nothing wrong with the accounting system."

Courthouse parking

Commissioners' president Loren Hylton requested auditor Beth Myers send an e-mail to all courthouse employees urging them to use parking facilities other than those around the perimeter of the courthouse. Hylton said when courthouse employees occupy those spots, customers of local businesses, as well as those visiting the courthouse, are inconvenienced.

Births

Michael and Stephanie Lewis Lane are parents of a 6-pound, 1-ounce daughter, Brookelynn Michelle Marie, born April 23 at St. Vincent Hospital in Frankfort. Maternal grandparents are Paul and Georgeanna Lewis of Delphi. Paternal grandparents are Trina Miller Lane and Mike and Janice Lane, all of Delphi. Maternal great-grandparents are Ethel Rausch of Colburn and Laurlene Lewis of Maryland.