

Eyesore no more!

Bicycle Bridge to get a new look

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

All it took for one well-known county bridge to get a fresh paint job was the cooperation of Carroll County's highway and sheriff's departments, plus the blessing of the commissioners. With those components working together and in place, Bicycle Bridge, covered with graffiti for years, will be painted soon.

No date was given for the work, however the highway department will supply the paint and the sheriff's department will supply the manpower, either with inmates or with those needing to do community service hours.

Highway superintendent Ron Francis said he was contacted by sheriff Tony Burns about the project. He told commissioners there was money in the department's bridge painting

budget to purchase the necessary 20 gallons of paint.

Commissioner Bill Brown remarked that he asked that the bridge be painted for years. Francis said he would purchase slightly more paint than actually needed to use if more graffiti appears after the paint job is completed.

2007 Road Plan

Phase II of the 2007 road plan was approved by the county leaders. Funding will be provided from Major Moves. Francis presented four proposals to the commissioners at the Aug. 6 meeting. All four presented differing amounts of road miles to be repaired with various levels of cover.

Roads to receive surface treatment include:

- CR100S from CR350E to SR29;
- CR250S from CR50E to CR300E;
- CR400E from CR250S to CR350S;
- CR400E from CR600S to CR800S;
- CR500E from CR600S to CR700S;

- CR550N from CR1130N to Rossetter;
- CR600S from SR29 to CR350E;
- CR650N from CR75 to CR50E;
- CR650N from CR100E to CR225E;
- CR750N from CR1250W to the dead end;
- CCR800S from SR75 to CR100E;
- CR1200N from CR925W to Meridian.

Roads which will be left in gravel are:

- CR100N from SR29 to the East County Line;
- CR150S from SR29 to East County Line;
- CR150W from CR150S to CR300S;
- CR200S from SR29 to East County Line;
- CR450W from CR100N to CR200N;
- CR575S from Radner to CR300S;
- CR575W from Prince William Rd. to CR200W;
- CR600S from SR75 to CR200E;
- CR1000W from CR1050N to CR1100N.

Francis was given approval to amend the traffic ordinance to erect signs to prohibit large trucks from taking CR400E north from SR218. He

explained drivers of the large rigs are using the road as a shortcut to the ethanol plant in the area.

"I think we should do whatever we have to do to maintain our roads," Brown said. "We need those heavy trucks going on the state roads."

Francis clarified the request for signage was not intended for local farmers who use the road on a routine basis but only for those traveling to the ethanol plant.

Francis was directed to research the feasibility of requiring a bond from new large animal operations to pay for road damage during site construction. County resident Galen Perry advised Miami County instituted such a requirement.

CR800S northeast of Rossville will be closed to the south county line road Saturday from 7:30 to 9 a.m. for an annual 5K Summers End run. Clinton County Highway Department will put

up road closed and detour signs for the event.

Highway employee Scott Bulington was granted an extension of medical leave with the condition he provide commissioners with monthly health status reports from his physician. According to Francis, Bulington has been on medical leave since May after suffering a mild stroke one year ago. **EDC**

Commissioners amended the approved 2007 Economic Development Income Tax budget to be able to contribute \$7,000 to the Carroll County Economic Development Corporation. The funding will be supplemental to \$14,000 collected for a Strategic Directions Initiative, already in progress.

EDC Director Daryl Smith told commissioners the county should be developing a plan to capitalize on economic development near the Hoosier **Continued page 5A**

Getting prepared for the audit story

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

The management and use of public money is on the minds of Carroll County taxpayers more and more. The financials of the City of Delphi and the county underwent a



Fisher

routine audit this summer. Results are expected to be made public within a few weeks.

Some may wonder what an audit tells a community. How are results interpreted and used? What information is audited and what does an audit really mean?

One quasi-governmental group the community is becoming increasingly interested in, the Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District, recently received audit results for 2005 and 2006. That document contains information and answers that could be valuable as a learning tool for Carroll County residents.

According to "Auditing - An Integrated Approach" by Alvin A. Arens and James K. Loebbecke, an audit is "a process by which a competent, independent person accumulates and evaluates evidence about quantifiable information related to a specific economic entity for the purpose of determining and reporting on the degree of correspondence between the quantifiable information and established criteria."

Derek Fisher of Fisher and Associates in Flora explained that one can substitute the word "standards" for "criteria" in the book definition.

"It is the comparison of what is to what should be," he said.

Fisher reviewed the TLRSD audit results, which can be

found and downloaded by visiting and clicking report filings. He said auditors look at source documents, perform tests for standard compliance and look at internal controls.

Fisher said words like "reportable conditions," "deficiencies" and "material weaknesses" are disturbing to find in audit reports. He said if they re-occur, it is a sign of sloppy bookkeeping practices. All of those terms are found in the TLRSD audit report document.

"Material weakness is not good language," Fisher said. "Material means major. It means the audited entity fell short of established business standards."

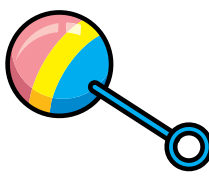
"An audit provides a level of assurance on the integrity of the data in the financial picture," he continued. "There are different types, levels and degrees of audits. Three to four dings in an audit are quite a few."

Fisher referred specifically to the findings 2006-1, 2006-2, 2006-3 and 2006-4 of the sewer districts' 2006 audit as areas of concern.

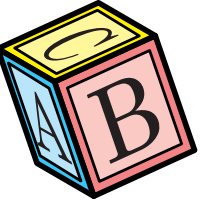
Finding 2006-1 stated, "The Twin Lakes regional Sewer District does not maintain a detailed record of capital assets... Failure to properly establish and maintain an accurate record of capital assets could result in the loss or misappropriation of fixed assets."

Finding 2006-2 - "Controls over the recording and accounting for the financial activities of the Twin Lakes Sewer District were insufficient. There were a number of posting errors to various general ledger (G/L) accounts...."

Finding 2006-3, about equipment and real property management stated, "The Twin Lakes Regional Sewer District does not maintain a detailed record of capital assets... Failure to follow program requirements of the Grant could delay or forfeit



Baby adoption - costly and priceless



By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Tony and Crystal Grandstaff of northern Carroll County have been happily married for 12 years, but they said something is missing in their lives.

"We're incomplete," Crystal said. They want a baby.

They went through the whole process of infertility treatments, but still no baby.

About six years ago, they started thinking about adoption. They consulted attorneys who are adoption specialists, looked into adoption agencies, and searched the Internet. They considered American adoption and foreign adoption.

Their heads were swimming with the details of the very options - costs, amount and difficulty of paperwork, time involved in the process, etc. They discovered that adoption of an American baby is the most expensive and the most difficult.

Through a family friend, they learned about an American-run orphanage in Guatemala.

The orphanage and affiliated adoption agency in the U.S. were founded by an American couple who had been missionaries in Guatemala. The Grandstaffs researched the agency, Special Delivery International, and agreed that it was a good option for them. They started the process last September.

"When you pick up the stack of paperwork, it's overwhelming," Tony said. "You just want to set it back down."

But they persevered - with filling out document after document and at the same time, trying to accumulate the money needed for the high cost of adoption.

They finished the paperwork in January, and were put on a waiting list.

"We had to call the agency whenever we wanted to know where we were on the list," Crystal said.

Finally they were No.1, and "their baby" was born May 3 - a girl with thick black hair. They now have an agonizing wait until they can pick her up in November.

The orphanage sends monthly updates through email - including photos of the baby and health reports.



A family in the making

Tony and Crystal Grandstaff recently traveled to Guatemala to visit the two babies that they hope to adopt. If everything goes right, they will be making two more trips to pick each baby up separately and bring them home to Carroll County. Photo provided

The Grandstaffs have already named the baby - Anna Rene Jessica Grandstaff. They have a framed photo of her in their living room and they are getting the nursery ready.

Crystal said there are so many couples in Indiana and Illinois who adopt through this agency that they have a yearly reunion. It was held this summer in Illinois, and the Grandstaffs were invited.

It was at this reunion that they received

**Benefit hog roast
For Tony and Crystal
Grandstaff
Sat., Sept. 1, 4 to 6 p.m.
Burnettsville Community
Center
Free will offering
Donations can be sent to the
Radnor United Methodist
Church, 2690S 585W, Delphi,
IN 46923. Write "The Grand-
staff Adoption Fund" in the
check memo.**

a shock. A social worker who was a representative of the adoption agency asked the Grandstaffs if they wanted to adopt a baby boy, too. This baby also was born in May. He had low birth weight and some health issues and was rejected by the couple at the top of the waiting list.

The Grandstaffs said they had talked about possibly adopting a baby boy sometime in the future, but never dreamed they would have that opportunity so soon.

Crystal said she thinks they were asked about the second baby because they did not hesitate to adopt Anna, even though she had some health issues at birth also.

The Grandstaffs decided that the double adoption was "meant to be," so they said "yes."

They started the paperwork for the baby boy on June 30.

The main concern this time, according to the Grandstaffs, is the money. They said adoption costs for Anna will total around \$23,000. They have paid \$11,000

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Mailing label goes here

Simmons is State Fair 3rd runner-up

Comet staff report

Miss Carroll County Desiray Simmons was chosen third runner-up in the Indiana State Fair Queen Contest held Sunday, the last day of the State Fair.

"It was a great experience up to the top ten and the placing was the icing on the cake," said Simmons Tuesday.

Simmons said that she was not nervous after they named her top ten because she had ac-

complished what she had wanted. But that didn't last long when she realized she had to answer an impromptu question.

She recalled her question was, "Where is your favorite place to go in Indiana and why?"

She said she had no problem answering that question. "My grandfather's pond because it's a place where my family can get together to eat and fish and

just be together."

Each contestant goes through preliminary judging in three categories - interview, professional wear, and evening gown.

The Top Ten Finalists are determined from the preliminary judging and were announced at the Sunday afternoon contest. The Top Ten Finalists are then re-judged in professional wear and evening gown and an on-

stage question.

From the second judging, the queen and her court (first, second, third and fourth runners-up) are chosen. Miss Congeniality is voted on by the contestants and announced at that time, too.

The new queen will reign for the next 12 months, promoting the Indiana State Fair, and then will pass her crown to the new queen on the last day of the fair.

Simmons received a gift bag and \$100 scholarship for third runner-up. She will participate in the Indiana State Fair Queen's Court next summer.

Simmons had little time to enjoy her title because the Purdue freshman was in class on Monday. She is majoring in agricultural economics with a minor in dance.

A 2006 graduate of Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School, she is the daughter of Jeff and Michelle Simmons of Bringhurst.



Photo by Phil Benson

Desiray Simmons

Deer Creek Festival is Saturday

Comet staff report

The annual Deer Creek Festival and Hog Roast will be this Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Deer Creek Community Center on State Road 29.

Children's games and contests will be offered from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fun activities will in-

clude a moonwalk, hole-in-one golf, ring toss, bean bag toss, and pyramid toss.

The Carroll County Sheriff's Department will do child fingerprinting from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A cake walk and bake sale both will begin at 11. The bake sale will continue until 7:30 p.m. All ages can play bingo from 1

to 3:30 p.m.

Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the all-you-can-eat hog roast will be from 4 to 7:30.

Door prizes and raffles will be offered throughout the day.

All proceeds from the event go to the Deer Creek Community Center.