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the county's economy and tax base via retention and attraction of business. Those three strategic imperatives were:

- Build on leadership in agriculture;
- Create a real estate development plan; and
- Raise money.

## Build on agriculture

Heupel said the county is one of Indiana's ag giants, ranking first in hog production and processing and among leaders in other categories including crop yields and production. That stronghold offers the county an opportunity to expand its leadership and encourage growth among industries which support agriculture.

"Agriculture is your low-hanging, do-right-now fruit," Heupel recommended. "Hang on to this position and be really, really good at it. Industries which supply agriculture in Carroll County are opportunities for entrepreneurship."

Heupel said in order for the county to build on its strong agriculture base, important challenges including environmental impacts, property values and animal health, whether real or perceived, should be addressed. He said EDC should foster best practices that go beyond minimum zoning requirements to help balance key concerns. He encouraged county officials to seek partnerships with livestock operators, industry groups, universities and agriculture agencies to explore opportunities in the county.

Though talk of confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) was kept to a minimum by request of EDC Executive Director Daryl Smith, aspects of the report focused on how to handle such a situation.

Community education in the practices of modern livestock operations such as CAFOs should be promoted, according to Heupel. He said it is not widely understood how modern livestock operations' environmental and monitoring compliance differ for accepted agricultural practices. He suggested open houses, field trips and grower presentations should be utilized to promote knowledge and acceptance of their practices.

Heupel said an economic analysis conducted at Ball State University showed Carroll County livestock industries purchased more than \$33 million in goods and services from outside the county each year. While not all represent real opportunities for business expansion, each should be explored to realize the potential. The report stated it would be the role of EDC to initiate conversations with current industries and determine which sectors present

viable avenues for growth.

## Real estate development

Heupel said the county would need to identify "suitable real estate" for business development including areas adjacent to the proposed Hoosier Heartland Industrial Corridor and more basic economic development sites.

"The question is whether these new investments...will further residents' common vision for a better Carroll County or just move existing commerce centers from the county's cities and towns to the interchanges," the report stated.

The effect of the proposed highway could be likened to what followed the coming of the canal and railroads to the county, effectively permanent in nature, according to the report. Those interested in economic and community development must immediately engage in efforts to update zoning ordinances and comprehensive plans "in a way consistent with county residents' collective vision."

## Raise the money

To attract funding, a county must know how it plans to use the funds it collects, according to Heupel and St. Claire. They suggested EDC should identify potential development sites, quantify costs and identify a timetable for investment. The timetable should include due diligence, land acquisition, extension or construction of utilities, site improvements and ongoing costs associated with ownership.

The report stated those funds could come from an increase in the economic development income tax. The current rate, .1 percent, could be raised to .25 percent that would bring an estimated \$468,000 to the table. That amounts to about \$68 per year, or \$1.30 per week for the median household in Carroll County based on 2004 figures. After exemptions and deductions, each taxpayer could expect to pay about a dollar per week.

"Prudent management of this strategic imperative can reasonably be projected to provide returns in excess of such an investment," the report read.

## Action plan - how to begin

Heupel and St. Claire listed seven steps they suggested be followed to ensure immediate success. They said county officials should:

- Seek endorsement of the Strategic Directions plan from the EDC Board of Directors;
- Organize to implement the plan;
- Formalize an approach to existing businesses. Offer the same packages to existing businesses as prospective businesses would receive;
- Prepare the real estate de-

velopment plan. Seek endorsement of the plan from chambers of commerce, business associations, cities and towns, individuals businesses, residents, community organizations, business development organizations and elected officials;

- Organize a request for county EDIT funding;
- Finalize land control agreement(s), due diligence process, project financing and pricing; and
- Begin physical development and marketing of the properties.

St. Claire said though the list might seem daunting, especially in light of hard financial times for residents, a plan must be developed and acted upon to produce a positive impact.

"Doing a plan is not hard," St. Claire explained. "It is who, what and when. If the plan is simple, it will be easier to do."

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But just because you are not required to accept bids, it doesn't mean it's not a good idea to do so. They are tied to this insurance agent for whatever reason and they're not giving in."

In a follow-up interview, Finkenbinder with MHAH Insurance, Lafayette, said that she is a Carroll County native and wants the best for the county. She said that although she no longer lives in the county, she has "lots of family" in the area. She said her father was Sherry Mears and both George Mears and (county council member) Carl Abbott are first cousins. She said she is a 1970 graduate of Delphi Community High School and even purchased her last car in the county.

She explained that agents would receive the same quotes from the same providers if they all use the same data. However, if different plans are pitched to the providers, by different agents, costs would vary.

"Bidding quotes is a good idea," she said. "Different plans can produce different dollar amounts."

Finkenbinder said employee meetings for clarification will be held Jan. 18. She will visit the highway department at 6:30 a.m., the courthouse at 9 a.m., the sheriff's department at 1 p.m. and Carroll Manor at 3 p.m. to explain the plan. A Jan. 22 meeting at 2 p.m. at the courthouse was scheduled for those employees who were unable to attend one of the other meetings.

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

## Douglas N. Patterson



Douglas Neal Patterson, 24, of Lafayette, died Jan. 10, 2008, in Lafayette. He was born July 20, 1983, to Kenneth Patterson of

Delphi and the late Kimberly Russell Boehme.

He was a cashier at McDonald's in the Lafayette area.

Survivors include his paternal grandmother, Carmelita Hawk (husband: Edward) of Delphi.

Services were held Jan. 15 at Hippensteel Funeral Home in Lafayette.

## Ruth E. Tatman

Ruth E. Tatman, 85, of Flora, passed away at 9 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, 2008, at St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center in Delphi.

Born Feb. 11, 1922, in Carroll County, she was the daughter of Carl and Mary McHardie Disinger. She attended Delphi schools. On July 22, 1941, in Delphi, she married Charles G. Tatman. He preceded her in death on Jan. 1, 1999.

Mrs. Tatman was a homemaker.

Surviving are four sons, Gene Tatman of Brookston, Carl Tatman of Corpus Christi, Texas, George Tatman of Lafayette, and Richard Tatman of Flora; one daughter, Kathleen Martin of Monticello; one sister, Opal McKinley of Delphi; 16 grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two daughters and one sister.

Calling will be today, Wednesday, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Reinke Funeral Home, Flora. Graveside service will follow at Brookston IOOF Cemetery. Pastor Bill Godbey will officiate.

## FSA is receiving emergency loan applications

### Comet staff report

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting applications for emergency loans through Aug. 27 for Carroll, Cass, Clinton and Pulaski counties.

As a result of drought conditions from June 5, 2007, through Nov. 7, 2007, any farmer in any of these counties who suffered losses may apply for FSA assistance.

FSA will consider each loan application on its own merit taking into account the extent of loss, security available, repayment ability, and other eligibility requirements.

For additional information and application forms, contact the FSA office at 517 S. Country Lane, Monticello, or call 574-583-5641.

## Betty J. Blickenstaff



Betty Joan Coons Blickenstaff, 78, of Delphi, passed away Sunday, Jan. 13, 2008, at 5:40 a.m. at St. Elizabeth

Healthcare Center in Delphi. She had been a resident there for the past three years and had been in failing health the past two months.

She was born Feb. 3, 1929, in Lebanon, to Jim and Mary Cranford Coons. She graduated from Burlington High School in 1945. Her marriage was to Robert Lee Blickenstaff in Delphi on Sept. 15, 1946, and he preceded her in death March 5, 1986.

Mrs. Blickenstaff was a member of Delphi Christian Church.

She worked for 10 years in the deli and as a cashier at Wallmann's Quality Foods in Delphi. She formerly worked at Bryant Manufacturing in Monticello for several years and as a house mother in a sorority at Purdue University for three years.

Mrs. Blickenstaff enjoyed ballroom dancing, sewing and knitting.

Surviving are a daughter, Diane High (husband: Bill) of West Hills, Calif.; two sons, Steve Blickenstaff (wife: Cheryl) of Delphi and Mike Blickenstaff (wife: Tammy) of Dyersburg, Tenn.; two sisters, Barbara Davis (husband: Charlie) of San Diego, Calif. and Mima Smith of Lititz, Penn.; 12 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Blickenstaff was preceded in death by a daughter, Roberta, and a brother, Jim.

Services are today, Wednesday, at 11 a.m. at Abbott Funeral Home in Delphi, and will be officiated by the Rev. Andrew Paris. Burial will be at I.O.O.F. Memorial Gardens in Pittsburg.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center or Delphi Christian Church. Envelopes are available at the funeral home.

## Max L. Starkey

Max L. Starkey, 67, of Camden, died Jan. 11, 2008, at his residence.

Born Jan. 7, 1941, in Logansport, he was the son of Jesse and Elsie Horn Starkey. He was married on Oct. 24, 1992, at Navada, Ind., to Frances Elaine Butcher, who survives.

Mr. Starkey had worked at T.M. Morris as an assembler for five years.

Also surviving are a stepson, Rob Antrim of Kokomo; a stepdaughter, Aundria Stout of Murfreesboro, Tenn.; and three grandchildren.

Services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday at Cree Funeral Home, Camden, with burial at Paint Creek Cemetery, Camden. Calling will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

## Charles M. Meade



Charles M. Meade, 65, of Flora, passed away at 7:15 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 13, 2008, at St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Lafayette.

He was born Feb. 7, 1942, in Frankfort, to Charley M. Sr. and Tochie Louise Wallace Meade. After attending Carrollton and Flora schools, he graduated from Logansport High School in 1960. He played football, baseball and basketball while at Logansport High School.

On Dec. 31, 1991, he married Patricia J. Wagoner Wisler at Pat's Country Barn in Flora and she survives.

Mr. Meade farmed in Carrollton Township several years and worked at Mann Chevrolet in Flora as a salesman. He also worked on appliances for Charlie & Pat's Repairs in Flora and helped cater at Pat's Country Barn.

He was a member of the Flora First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He was one of three members representing the Town of Flora on the Carroll County Economic Development Corp. He was a member of Rotary International, Kiwanis Club, Carroll County Antique Tractor and Machinery Club, John Purdue Club and the Purdue Club of Carroll County.

He was a member and former president of the Flora Community Club and Carroll County YMCA. He also served as president of the Carroll County Old Settlers Association.

He was past president of the Flora Little League, Carroll County Fair and Extension Board, and Carroll County Historical Society, and past board member of Prophetstown State Park.

He was a former 4-H leader.

Mr. Meade enjoyed collecting antique toys and tractors. He was an avid sports fan, following the Colts and Purdue sports.

He is survived by two sons, Chris Meade (wife: Michelle) and Craig Meade, all of Flora; two stepdaughters, Petra Carter (husband: Duane) of Indianapolis and Polly Prather (husband: Marty) of West Lafayette; one sister, Patty Maiben (husband: Tim) of Bunker Hill; a sister-in-law, Shirley Wagoner (husband: Dr. Gordon) of Flora; two grandchildren, Chase and Codey Meade of Flora; and three stepgrandchildren, Emilee Delaplane, Eli and Ben Prather.

Services were held Tuesday evening at the Flora First Christian Church. Pastors Al Grumbling and Sam Davenport officiated. Burial was at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Flora.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the Carroll County YMCA.

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

# DCSC From page 1A

apply for a biomedical grant for training and equipment. The grant would pay \$25,000 each year for four years. He said at first students in grades 10 to 12 could take the Core 40 elective courses but hoped the state would continue to adjust the rules to make the courses available to all high schoolers.

## Schools to become training sites

An agreement with Arbor, a company involved in Indiana's privatized welfare and workforce development programs, to provide training and education to individuals seeking placement in the workforce was approved. Residents from the community who participate in the program will be able to work with school employees to learn skills they could take to future jobs. Walker said workers would be volunteers to DCSC, paid by the welfare system and would undergo the same employment checks as regular employees.

"This is a good way for the corporation to help people from its own community," Walker said.

## New cafeteria tables

Stone's request for the purchase of 20 bench-style tables for the high school cafeteria was approved. The tables and a trolley to move them will cost \$22,595. Stone said the old tables are beginning to slope and break. Chairs and good tables will be stored for use during dinners and events held at the school. Board member Jim

Garrison voted against the measure.

## Other reports provided

Leanne Aldrich of the Delphi Education Foundation presented an update to the board. She said the foundation, conceived to collect donations for the corporation, received its federal and state tax identification codes and is now an official entity.

Aldrich said the foundation would focus on providing grants to teachers and classrooms. Informational brochures and packets were printed to provide to businesses and individuals.

"We want to lessen the burden on the board and taxpayers," she explained.

Camden principal Carol Coon provided an ISTEP+ report. She said information from the test would be compiled and shared during a teacher in-service day this week. Teachers at CECC were paired up to review the students' applied skills test booklets, made available for the first time this year.

The information would help administrators and teachers find common errors among students and form a "common language" between teachers at different grade levels. She explained students sometimes make errors because they were taught something one way in one grade but the same concept was explained differently the next year.

## Other business

Claims and payroll in the amount of \$3,334,736 were approved.

Employment was approved for the following: Joy Atkinson, high school and middle school nurse; Stephanie Stone, Camden Nurse; Jamie Houser, middle school assistant swim coach and high school varsity track coach; Katrina Coghill, 7th grade girls' basketball coach; Shonda Isaacs, 6th grade girls' basketball coach; Brian Garrison, volunteer assistant 7th grade girls' basketball coach; Charlie Harris, volunteer assistant 8th grade girls' basketball coach; Jeff

Johnson, head secondary custodian; and John Randle, volunteer middle school swim coach.

## Future dates

The board will meet for a facility renovation work session Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the corporation office. The next regular meeting will be held there Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.

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