

# Flora man receives package from the Colts

By Jennifer Archibald  
Staff writer

The Indianapolis Colts didn't play in this year's Super Bowl game, but they're still Number One in the eyes of John Wayne Rieken of Flora.

He recently received a package

from the Colts. It contained a No. 29 jersey autographed by running back Joseph Addai, two Colts caps from last year's Super Bowl win, and an autographed photo of team owner Jim Irsay.

"They came at a good time," said his aunt, Charlene Coronado.

She explained that John's spirits were low at the time, and the Colts items really made him feel better.

"I was on Cloud 9 when I got them," John said.

When it comes to the Colts players, John said, "I like 'em all."

He said he might be a little partial to Addai, Peyton Manning, and Dallas Clark.

"I think they may have sent me Addai's jersey because I was a running back in high school," John said.

He played football for three years at Carroll High School and then his football career was cut short.

In the summer between his junior and senior years, he had a dirt bike accident that left him paralyzed from the breast line down. Through hard work, he was still able to graduate with his class in 2000.

The Colts knew about John through his grandmother, Lillian Copeland, who lives near Columbus. She has a friend whose daughter works for Irsay.

John's grandmother asked for Irsay's address and wrote to him. She sent him a couple of newspaper clippings from John's football days, told him about the accident, and about how much John likes the Colts.

Irsay responded with the team gifts.

John has other Colts memorabilia in his apartment including a banner wall print of the Colts cheerleaders, taken last year. This was compliments of Greg Michael of Flora and his daughter-in-law, Stephanie Michael, one of the cheerleaders pictured. She autographed the print.

Charlene said winter is the worst time for John because he can't get out as much. When the weather's decent, John gets out in his power chair, accompanied by an assistant. One of his favorite outings is going to dirt car races.

John likes visitors, and says people have been good to him.



## Colts fan

John Rieken of Flora is a loyal Colts fan. He recently received a package of Colts memorabilia from owner Jim Irsay and the team. Rieken said during the past football season, he wore his special blue and white striped pants every Sunday that the Colts played. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

"My neighbors bring me cake and cookies," he said.

John has his own apartment in Westwood Village, and gets by with a lot of help.

Family members, including his great-uncle Gerald Clingenpeel,

check in on him frequently. "He has a great attitude," Gerald said.

## Business Briefs

**SELVEY HEATING AND COOLING**, Rossville, is one of three national finalists for the Air Conditioning Contractors of America's (ACCA) 2008 Award for Excellence. The Rossville firm is a finalist in the Excellence in Residential Contracting category. Winners in each category will be announced at the ACCA Conference to be held Feb. 5-7 in Colorado Springs.

**SAM MOFFITT** of Flora was elected one of three new directors of the Indiana Pork Board at the 2008 Indiana Pork Annual Meeting, held at the Hendricks County Conference Center in Danville last week. Indiana Pork hosts this annual meeting for all pork producers in the state. The meeting gives producers the opportunity to come together and share ideas and strategies for business success in the industry. A major topic at this year's meeting was the challenging business environment that many producers are facing due to rising feed costs and declining hog prices.

## DCSC board tours and talks Taxpayers encouraged to participate

By Kevin Schnepf  
Staff writer

Delphi Community School Corporation board members and patrons toured many of the high school's academic areas before a work session Monday night. After the tour, the board prioritized options regarding proposed physical asset improvements, many of which dealt with areas they had just seen.

Those on the tour were informed of shortcomings related to academic areas and how other locations could be utilized more efficiently. The group stopped several times along the way to share concerns and ideas with the benefit of looking at the focus of their conversations.

DCSC Superintendent Ralph Walker told the *Comet* Tuesday he felt the tour helped attendees envision the renovation process.

"The board was able to visualize better together," Walker said. "That helped them talk through it easier."

During the work session, board president Robert Resler visited every item listed on the conceptual design report provided by consulting firm Envoy. He asked board members individually to state whether he or she supported, questioned or disapproved of each point on the \$18,462,068 project.

Of the 29 district-wide renovations and additions listed, most were agreed upon as must-haves by the board. Four items were declared alternates - auditorium renovation, kitchen expansion, high school concessions and kindergarten restrooms.

Resler told the *Comet* Tuesday it was important for members of the public to keep in mind nothing was set in stone and it was

The DCSC board will offer a tour and public forum Feb. 11 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the high school commons. The tour will focus on the high school's physical education areas. The forum will include any aspect of the corporation's plans about which patrons wish to speak.

A regular board meeting will be held immediately following the tour and forum.

DCSC Superintendent Ralph Walker encouraged those who would like to tour the facilities at another date to call the corporation office at (765) 564-2100 or high school principal Barry Stone at (765) 564-3481 to schedule a visit.

important for patrons to be part of the process.

"I think that after last night it is apparent that there are no cut and dried decisions," he stated. "The cost projections that we are using are simply that...based on square footage times a formula that is based from historical construction data and current estimate projections used for commercial projects."

Resler explained before actual costs would be known the board must hold more work sessions, host a 1028 tax hearing, endure and win a remonstrance period, appear before the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF), submit for bids and then receive bids.

"We know for a fact no matter what we submit to the DLGF, they will cut it," Resler continued. "All of the advisors we have talked to, including other school corporations that have gone through this process in the last two years have suggested that we submit everything we have talked about. This way you can be assured that you will at least get enough to do what you absolutely have to do."

He went on to say the board listened to the public when it came to unwanted plans and encouraged patrons to take part in the process instead of saying no from the beginning.

"We knew the public would not stand still for the MIF (multi-

instructional facility), so we deleted it," he said. "We know no matter what we would submit, there will be a remonstrance. We know there are people already talking this before we even submitted any numbers. We need people to attend the work sessions and listen. It is really bad when very few show up to listen and think about the project, then everyone shows up to voice objections to something that they have not even listened to."

Walker said the corporation would continue to hone options and address patrons' questions leading up to a tour and public forum schedule for Monday at 6 p.m. at the high school. Call the corporation office at (765) 564-2100 for information.

## Emergency Food Stamps available for victims of flooding

### Residents in 9 counties may qualify for assistance

Comet staff report

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) announced Tuesday that they have received approval from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to issue emergency food stamps to residents of Carroll, Cass, Elkhart, Fulton, Jasper, Marshall, Pulaski, Tippecanoe and White counties that suffered major losses in the January flooding. The Disaster Food Stamp Program (DFSP) may apply to all residents affected by the disaster, including people not currently receiving State assistance.

"The emergency measures allow our local Division of Family Resources offices to determine eligibility for victims based on available income, minus shelter and disaster related expenses," said Zach Main, director of the Division

of Family Resources. "All resources except cash on hand and bank accounts will be excluded from the eligibility determination."

County residents who are not usually eligible for food stamps may temporarily qualify for DFSP if their home or belongings were damaged or destroyed, if they have un-reimbursed disaster-related expenses or if they have lost income, food or money as a result of the flooding. Families will have five days to apply beginning Feb. 6, 2008. The benefit period extends from Jan. 7 through Feb. 6, 2008. When applying, applicants should bring a state driver's license or other form of identification, such as work or school ID, birth certificate, wage stub and a document that verifies their home address. Applicants may be asked for their Social Security Number as well. Please note, persons who

purposely provide wrong information on a food stamp application may be denied food stamps and legal action may be taken. For further details on eligibility or to submit your application, contact your local county Office of Family Resources, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Local Family Resource offices, where victims may apply for DFSP include:

Carroll County OFR, 6931 W 300 North, Suite B, Delphi, (800) 403-0864

Cass County OFR, 300 East Broadway, Logansport, (800) 403-0864

Tippecanoe County OFR, 111 North 4th Street, Lafayette, (765) 742-0400

White County OFR, 816 Fisher Street, Monticello, (800) 403-0864

For more information on FSSA, go to: [www.in.gov/fssa](http://www.in.gov/fssa).

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