

Council sets appropriation target for 2008 - \$5 million

By **Debbie Lowe**
Staff writer

Carroll County Council met in joint session with commissioners Thursday evening. The meeting was designed to provide an opportunity for both governmental entities to hear, in unison, recommendations from the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) about the county's fiscal outlook.

Council president Nancy S. Cripe wasted no time telling the group that the 2008 appropriation recommended by DLGF was \$5 million, approximately \$200,000 less than earlier expectations and \$1.8 million less than the budget submitted last September. The revised budget is to include the repayment of \$675,000 borrowed earlier from the cumulative bridge account.

"The sooner we can get our budget reduced, the better," Cripe advised. "Basically, we need to do that tomorrow," council member Ann Brown said.

Finance committee report

Chairperson Brown reported the treasurer's office is within \$111.31 of balancing the cash sheet with the bank accounts. She said this was "as close as it's going to get" and if the amount remains constant for two months, the Indiana State Board of Accounts will adjust the funds to zero out the difference.

Brown said there continues to be a discrepancy between the amount of money in the bank and the amount the bookkeeping records indicate is in the bank.

Auditor Beth Myers disagreed with the report which suggested errors re-

sulting in the discrepancy have been posting errors done in the auditor's office.

"Now we know the funds are right," Brown said. "The accounts do not balance with the funds. This balancing is important to get completed," she added.

Brown said the county was going to have to borrow money from a lending institution in the near future. She said the county would have to have balanced books and a repayment plan developed in order to make that happen.

"If our county cannot balance 'our books' and have a plan to repay any monies borrowed, we will not be considered for a loan by any financial institution," the report read.

Brown said without a loan, the county would be forced to spend any

available funds and would become bankrupt "in a few short months."

Suggestions offered to consider how to address the long-term fix for the county's financial problems included: Generate more income; examine all departmental expenditures focusing on the five which have benefited most from the overspending of the past; develop a budget for the cumulative capital improvement fund for savings; borrow from the Tax Increment Finance District; borrow from a financial institution; increase county fees for services, and revise the personnel policies.

One suggestion, to focus on five departmental budgets which experienced the largest increases in appropriations in the past five years, was implemented immediately. Recommendations were given to department

heads for consideration to determine from where decreases will be made.

Commissioners were asked to reduce their budget by \$439,000, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) by \$465,000, sheriff's department by \$133,000, the jail by \$174,000 and Carroll Manor by \$42,000. All departments were provided items to consider for reductions.

Nine additional departments including coroner, prosecutor, veteran's office, superior and joint courts, Emergency Management Agency, soil and water conservation, and the 4-H building were mentioned as departments that should expect budgetary reductions for 2008.

Commissioner Bill Brown expressed concern about where the commissioners might reduce their

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Stauffer named Vet of the Year

By **Kevin Schnepf**
Staff writer

Delphi veterinarian Dr. Lawrence "Doc" Stauffer, a man familiar to many Carroll County residents and their animals, was recognized recently for his many years of tireless work on behalf of veterinary medicine. Stauffer was presented the Veterinarian of the Year Award during the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association's (IVMA) 124th annual meeting.

Stauffer said Monday he was "flabbergasted" when his named was announced during the conference.

"It is a great honor, I was very humbled," Stauffer said.

Stauffer has practiced organized veterinary medicine for over 40 years, mostly in Delphi. He graduated from Purdue University's School of Veterinary Medicine in 1967. He spent one and a half years in New York before he moved to Delphi.

As his practice was established, Stauffer became active in the local community through church activities and the Del-



Stauffer

phi school board. He also became more involved in the animal health field.

Stauffer currently represents the swine district on the IVMA board of directors. He is an 11-year member of the Indiana Board of Animal Health.

He has helped provide medical services to animals during the Indiana State Fair for 37 years, and coordinated efforts among all participating vets the last 15 of those years.

Previously he was a member of the Indiana Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (state licensing board) for eight years. He also served on the Pseudorabies Eradication Program, where he performed clinical research.

He has also served in every office at the local district level of organized veterinary medicine.

Stauffer said it meant a great deal to him to be selected from among many accomplished veterinary professionals.

"A lot of people were more deserving of this award," he said. It's a plaque I'll put on the mantle."

Keeping the beat at the YMCA

By **Jennifer Archibald**
Staff writer

When the Carroll County YMCA decided to offer ballroom dancing lessons, it must have struck a chord, because 17 couples signed up.

The couples say they've had a ball - learning the waltz, fox trot, rumba, and swing. They completed their first five lessons, and most have signed on for another five.

The instructor is Jose Quintero of Lafayette, and his dance partner is Joanna Douglas.

"The instructor is very good," said Pat Leahy, "and very patient," said Rhoda Kratz. "He makes it fun," added Kimberly Stoddard.

"I never danced before because I didn't think I could," said Bill Stoddard. "But after four lessons, we learned the basics. We could be more graceful, but we know the basics."

"We had wanted to take dance class for a long time, but didn't want to drive to Lafayette or Kokomo," Teresa Fife said. "We both love it," she said, speaking for herself and husband Tony.

"We started at zero knowledge of dancing," Teresa continued. "We've learned more than I ever thought we'd learn in such a short time. We're not able to dance without counting, but we know what we're doing. We could dance at a wedding or a dance place now."

Family weddings coming up prompted more than one couple to take the classes so they can dance at the reception.

"I have a niece getting married in July of '09," said Pat Leahy. "It was my idea to take

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Christmas gift in action
Rhoda and David Kratz are practicing one of the dance moves they learned in the Carroll County YMCA ballroom dancing classes. The lessons were a Christmas gift from him to her. Pat and Joe Spence can be seen in the "archway." Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

Flood victims can have questions answered

Comet staff report

Flood victims and concerned citizens who have questions about recent local flooding can get answers from state and federal agency representatives and NIPSCO during a public forum Feb. 29 at 5 p.m. in the Monroe Street gymnasium in Delphi. The discussion will be hosted by the Department of Homeland Security.

A similar meeting was held in Monticello recently. White County Emergency Management Director Gordie Cochran said Tuesday that meeting was helpful to many who attended.

"It did a lot of good for some people to go and vent," Cochran said. "If people go (to the meeting in Delphi) and ask good questions, they will get

the answers they need."

"The state will explain what flood victims can do and what to expect," he continued. "Anyone with any questions should take the opportunity to talk with these representatives while they are there together."

DCHS students have it 'Made'



Dreaming big
Delphi Community High School students from left Natalie Garrison, Micah Red Elk and Chelsea Marburger prepared for their interviews with MTV's "Made" reality series yesterday. Comet photo by Jenna Buehler

By **Jenna Buehler**
Comet writer-intern

Tuesday was expected to be a big day for Delphi Community High School students as they awaited a chance to be featured on television. MTV's "Made" reality television series held interviews at the school yesterday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the gym and Little Theatre.

According to information sent via E-mail from an MTV casting associate to DCHS principal Barry Stone, "Made" is a Daytime Emmy Award-winning self-improvement program that encourages students or groups of students to set goals they never thought were possible. MTV provides professional trainers, coaches and/or mentors to help teens attain their goal while the "Made" series documents the process. The goal of the program is to demonstrate the persistence and commitment it takes to make dreams come

true as well as the process of the achievement.

According to Stone, there are three steps involved in the selection process. If a student is chosen after the interview, they will receive a follow-up session during which the student will be filmed in and out of school to ensure the goal of the individual or group is legitimate. The finalist will be surprised with a "Made Coach" to guide them toward their goal, as they are documented and broadcast throughout the four-month transformation period.

The series is casting for its ninth season and has filmed over 100 episodes. Since DCHS announced the opportunity to students, the school has been buzzing with the excitement and anticipation of the event.

Senior Natalie Garrison told the *Comet* Friday of her desire to become a ballerina/hip-hop dancer.

"When it was first an-

nounced that MTV was coming I thought it was a joke," Garrison said. "I just thought 'why would "Made" want to come to Delphi?' But I couldn't wait to see what other people were doing and I can't wait until they broadcast our school on television!"

Freshman Micah Red Elk said if chosen, he intends to gain experience he can use for a future career.

"I've always wanted to race golf-carts because I hope to race in NASCAR someday," Red Elk said. "Jeff Gordon is my favorite racer and he got started with golf-carts and worked his way up on the track. I hope to do the same thing."

"I know my chances of winning are slim to none," he added. "But if I got picked - that would just be awesome."

Chelsea Marburger, a DCHS senior and fan of the reality series, explained what the oppor-

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