

DLGF stuns From page 1A

March 24, 2008, including, but not limited to, all written communication, both letters and e-mails, to and from Carroll County Auditor Beth Myers, Carroll County Treasurer Jane Brewington, Carroll County Commissioners William Brown and Loren Hylton, Carroll County Council members

Rob Baker, Nancy Cripe, Ann Brown, Steve Ashby and Ron Slavens, telephone communications, facsimiles and memos."

A similar request was made to Myers via e-mail. Efforts to contact Myers by telephone Tuesday for this story were unsuccessful.

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"I don't see any give and take," commissioner Bill Brown said.

Prosecutor Tricia Thompson argued that if the deferment happened, the measure would give the council an extra \$350,000 and would allow the county to employ more deputies. The current plan is for

three deputy positions to be defunded.

Slavens explained the money was already spent and was not available for redirection. He said the county started 2008 with a deficit of approximately \$300,000 and if the county finished the year with a zero balance, it would have to borrow

money Jan. 1, 2009, to pay claims.

Asked what would happen if commissioners failed to act on this recommendation, Ashby said they would have to decrease the 2008 budget (\$5 million) by \$675,000 rather than \$350,000.

The next commissioners

meeting will be April 7 at 9 a.m.

Council will meet March 31. County financial advisors H.J. Umbaugh and Associates will present a recommendation. Representatives from the Redevelopment Commission, which controls the tax increment financing district, will also appear for a discussion.

Letters to the Editor

Advise county officials

I would like to thank you for the EDC write-up, explaining functions and cost. It just reinforces my belief all the more that it is past time for the government at all levels to disassociate itself from business. There is no way that the expense and taxes that are given will return a positive return for money spent. In other words GET RID of the EDC and all the associated costs and payouts.

At the same time a word of advice to the council and the commissioners - you can't borrow your way out of debt. All you have to do is look at past history of intervals and government to see that it doesn't work.

Suggestion - go back in time when you had a working budget, see what's been added since that time and start cutting what's been added since.

Warren Martin
Bringhurst

Tarnished image

I was watching Channel 18 news while fixing dinner March 17 when I noted a fairly long story about Carroll County's money woes. The story first focused on the county home and then on the potential increase in economic development tax. The reporter mentioned a "heated exchange," and the next scene showed an elderly gentleman being verbally attacked by County Commissioner Bill Brown. "You are such a fool!" yelled Brown who continued his diatribe in a loud, heated

tone. This same story was also headline news on Channel 18's website later that evening.

My embarrassment at the county's image as seen on local television continued into the next evening when I met some friends from Lafayette for a club meeting. Three different people had seen the news story, could quote Mr. Brown, and asked me what in the world is going on in Carroll County. One of these individuals owns a trucking company; one owns a construction company; and the other owns a landscape business. With this kind of image projected by a county official, none of the three are ready to relocate their businesses in Carroll County!

This is not the first time I have witnessed Mr. Brown yell at people who don't agree with him or who raise questions he would rather not answer. I recall a letter in the *Comet* not long ago that spoke to the need to show our public officials respect at meetings. Respect goes two ways. Mr. Brown's consistent verbal bullying and abuse appears disrespectful to the citizens of Carroll County. What he forgets is that he is our representative, and as a representative of the people of Carroll County, he does not have the freedom to vent personal venom at public meetings. Like all elected public officials, he is held to a higher standard of behavior.

And what of our county image to those who do not live here? Mr. Brown's words and behavior provided viewers and listeners the worst kind of marketing for Carroll County. No

amount of tax increase for economic development can bring business or individuals to live in a county where public officials yell at their constituents!

Judy Berkshire,
Camden

Public safety outweighs all else

It has amazed me over the last couple of weeks as to the thought process coming out of the county government. I am all for cutting back, especially the size of government. But question drastic cuts to public safety while letting non-safety issues continue on with minor cuts.

Although this is not the first time that public safety personnel have been scaled back in an Indiana county, it does seem quite an extreme measure. I would think, as a former law enforcement officer, that there might have been other internal cutting that could have been done, even in the jail, prior to this kind of action. Has anyone even considered privatization on some of these services? I'm sure the three displaced deputies would agree with me.

In thinking about the future of this county and how to get over this four-foot speed bump, I agree with what has been said about attracting business and commerce in general. There are three major things businesses and especially people look for when evaluating a new community for a move - schools, parks, and public safety (police and fire, etc.). My feeling is that we are cutting ourselves off at the knees

by taking the public safety issue back as far as these cuts take us.

These types of cuts also put us all at risk as citizens. Do not think for a minute that the criminal element does not do their homework on law enforcement like law enforcement does homework on them. They very much do counter-surveillance to make sure they can pull off their criminal enterprise. I have seen it firsthand. What do you think the criminals are saying to themselves as they watch our county government at work? (You can almost hear the high-fives.)

It is interesting to me how the board game Monopoly has a parallel to real life. In Monopoly if you get into money problems you sell off some of your hotels, houses or even some of your properties. Watching how "Carroll County Monopoly" is being played is like watching a horror movie. You keep yelling at the screen but the people keep going into the same dark house.

I urge one and all to make sure public safety is a top priority in this county. Be it fire, police or ambulance service.

Dale Seward

Down with TLRSB

Opressed by the TLRSB? Tired of being told you have no rights? Join the FJTC efforts and meet with us at the Yeoman United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 5, at 10 a.m. All is not lost, we have only just begun to fight!

Terry Dill
Jefferson Twp.
Flora

Obituaries

Fred W. Houser

Fred W. Houser, 81, of Delphi, died at 10:25 a.m. Monday, March 24, 2008, at St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center, Delphi. He had resided there for two months.



Born July 10, 1926, in Burnettsville, he was the son of Manfred and Clara Ballard Houser. On June 14, 1947, in Burnettsville, he married Alma Leslie, who survives.

Mr. Houser retired from Peters-Revington Furniture Factory, Delphi, in 1989. He was previously employed at Kerlin's Elevator in Delphi and as a farmhand.

A U.S. Army veteran, he served during World War II from 1943 to 1946, primarily in the Philippines.

He was a member of the Rockfield Christian Church.

Mr. Houser was an avid gardener, mushroom hunter and lawn mower. He loved his family and his dog, Kasey.

Surviving with his wife are a daughter, Pat Ginn (husband: Tom) of Delphi; two sons, David Houser (wife: Kathy) of Delphi and Don Houser (wife: Rhonda) of Lafayette; eight grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and six stepgreat-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by four brothers, five sisters, one great-grandson, and a daughter-in-law, Delores.

Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Abbott Funeral Home, Delphi. Pastor Todd Ladd will officiate. Burial with military graveside rites will be at Pleasant Run Cemetery, Pittsburg. Friends may call at the funeral home from 4 to 7 p.m. today, Wednesday.

Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association. Envelopes are available at the funeral home.

Douglas Stewart

Douglas Stewart, 50, of Camden, died at 1:32 p.m. Monday, March 24, 2008, at Woodlawn Hospital, Rochester.



Born Oct. 3, 1957, in Indianapolis, he was the son of Sterling and Alice Shaw Stewart. He graduated from Carroll High School in 1977.

Mr. Stewart was a farmer. He enjoyed NASCAR, Colts football, fishing, building model semis and playing men's softball.

Surviving are his mother and stepfather, Alice and Wayne Lambert of Camden; a daughter, Heather Stewart of Lafayette; a son, Jordan Stewart of Camden; two sisters, Deb Foreman (husband: Chuck) and Deanne Lambert,

all of Camden; three brothers, Darrell Stewart of Burlington, Duane Stewart of Camden, and Dave Lambert (wife: Stephanie) of Flora; two grandsons, Wesley Stewart and Mason Walker; and his former wife, Lisa Stewart.

He was preceded in death by a son, Jesse Stewart, and his father.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday at Jubilee Fellowship, Flora. Pastor Scott Gamel will officiate. Burial will be at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Flora. Calling will be from 4 to 8 p.m. today, Wednesday, at Reinke Funeral Home, Flora.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to Jubilee Fellowship.

Eric P. Akers Sr.

Eric P. Akers Sr., 33, of rural Monticello, died March 22, 2008, at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Lafayette.

Mr. Akers was born Nov. 29, 1974, in Monticello, to Melvin Akers and Debbie Crowder Randolph. On Feb. 29, 2004, he married Veronica Shelton at Yeoman.

Surviving are: his wife in rural Monticello; two children, Ashley and Eric Akers, both at home; his mother, Debbie Randolph (husband: Bob) of Delphi; his father, Melvin Akers of Monticello; two sisters, Jessica Akers (fiance: Daniel Lipps) of Monticello and Amanda

Crouch (husband: Ryan) of Kerrville, Texas; a brother, Scott Akers of Lafayette; his paternal grandparents, George and Nellie Akers of Monticello. Visitation will be March 27 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Miller-Roscka Funeral Home in Monticello. Services will be held March 28 at 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be at I.O.O.F. Riverview Cemetery in Monticello.

Memorial contributions may be made to a Children's Trust Fund established at Industrial Federal Credit Union in Monticello.

Jane Allread

Jane Allread, 83, of Logansport, died at 7 a.m. Monday, March 24, 2008, at her residence.

Born May 26, 1924, in Carroll County, she was the daughter of Dallas and Blanche Smoyer. On Feb. 20, 1948, in Rockfield, she married Harold E. "Skinny" Allread, who preceded her in death.

Mrs. Allread was a member of the Burrows Presbyterian Church.

She was a homemaker and enjoyed traveling and bingo.

Surviving are a grandson, John E. Allread of Bloomington; a sister, Jean Callane of Flora; a nephew, Kenneth

Callane of Flora; and a niece, Marsha Staples of Lewisburg, Tenn.

A son, Ronald Eugene Allread, also preceded her in death.

Service will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Burrows Presbyterian Church. Pastor Ellis Gasser will officiate and burial will be at Keep Creek Cemetery, Logansport. Visitation will be at the church one hour prior to the service.

Memorials may be made to the donor's favorite charity.

Gundrum Funeral Home, Logansport, is in charge of arrangements.

STATE OF INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE



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Dear Editor,

Thank you for following the Carroll County financial situation. It is important that the public receive information about this, as local decisions affect taxpayers of those communities.

It is also important that citizens know what brought the County to this point and the role local officials played.

Essentially, Carroll County officials made a mistake in balancing the checkbook of the county in 2004. They overstated their General Fund balance by including investments that should not have been listed in the General Fund. To citizens, that equates to adding the available funds in the checking account to a retirement account balance and thinking that was the total available to spend.

This mistake led to a false calculation of available funds, and county officials overdrew their checking account. As a result, the county's General Fund budget for 2008 is under funded by approximately \$1.88 million. This means that the money the County is bringing in from property taxes and miscellaneous revenues does not meet the expenditures that are outgoing. In other words, the County's paycheck does not meet its expenses.

The Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) found the error and is currently playing the role of a consumer credit counselor and financial advisor to the county. The DLGF is advising county officials on what funds are available from "savings accounts" and other options County officials have the ability to use to meet existing expenses. Examples include, but are not limited to, the County's Rainy Day Fund and Riverboat Funds.

The DLGF will continue to work with County officials to advise them on how they can meet current expenses with funds available, but it is important to remember that these are local decisions made by locally-elected officials. As such, we encourage citizens to ask questions and learn how their locally-elected officials are managing this process

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Michalak

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If you own a painting by
Leroy (Roy) Trobaugh
and are interested in
selling it for cash, contact:
trobaughart@bellsouth.net

NOTICE TO LOT OWNERS BURLINGTON CEMETERY

Those wanting to keep their winter
bouquets & saddles remove them before

Saturday, April 5

New bouquets can be placed after May 1st

A memorial should last forever

Memorial gifts to the Carroll County
Community Foundation do just that.

- Your gift will be acknowledged to the family
- The name of the individual memorialized will be added to the Community Foundation's book of memory
- Contributions will be added to the fund of your choice and endowed as a lasting memorial benefitting our community forever



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