

# Mears From page 1A

current fiscal situation in the county saying he firmly believed the way out of overspending was to cut services and increase income.

"The not balancing between the auditor and the treasurer is not the real issue," he said.

He said he was in favor of enacting a mandate or public policy in which the council would only appropriate the amount of income received two years prior to the current budget year, thereby ensuring a definite amount of money to spend.

When asked about commissioners' open door law violations, Mears refused to answer. He said every county leader had responsibility for the financial situation. He said more questions needed to be asked about county finances, but not necessarily in open meetings.

"Behind the scenes, above the scenes, whatever it takes," he said.

Mears said it took years for the county to reach the point of needing to borrow from a bank to pay bills. He said it would take a long time to recover from the situation.

"The gears of progress work painfully slow," he reiterated.

Noting other accomplishments, Mears said during his tenure commissioners initiated evening meetings every other month to allow residents who work during the day to attend and be able to weigh in on is-

sues. He further stated the reason the county council was able to borrow from the cumulative bridge account was because the current commissioners were very frugal with money for bridge projects.

Noting a near-accomplishment, Mears said commissioners attempted to secure an "earmark" to build a county road extension from SR75 to the new highway. He called the effort an "educated risk" to hire the Troyer Group to provide a study for the project.

"We attempted to get an earmark, but were not successful in that," he said. "But if we aren't willing to invest in the future, who will?"

Mears said not everyone is suited to be commissioner. He cited low pay, long hours and no health benefits as things that would not encourage some to run for the job.

"We need some qualified people to step up for those offices," he said. "Who would want this position?"

"It's a thankless job, but a very important one," he added.

Mears said he thought the county would recover from the current fiscal dilemma to realize a bright future.

"We'll get through this, we're kind of a tough bunch," he concluded. "We just gotta look to the future."

# Clawson From page 1A

answers - but I will work extremely hard to come to the best answer," he added.

Clawson said he would like to see offices in the courthouse and employees managed differently. He said standard job descriptions for all employees should be used. He added commissioners must have accountability with department heads and they in turn should expect to be accountable to the commissioners.

Clawson said he was dedicated enough to overcoming where the county is right now that he is willing to do what it takes to help the county out of the current financial problems - even if it meant getting no money to be commissioner.

"I'd do it for nothing," he said. "I am committed to making the county financially sound again."

Clawson said he is not opposed to raising taxes but wants them "to be used wisely." He said income taxes should be raised to create a new income stream for county general.

He explained commissioners are an integral part of the solution to the problem the county is experiencing.

"The commissioners have to work with everyone in the community - including the council," he said. "It's not the same world now. We have to come up with some different answers. We need to consult with other counties to see how they have solved these problems and then adapt those solutions to our situation."

Clawson said he was concerned that the county may have spent a great deal of money in flood debris removal that will not be reimbursed by FEMA. Private property owners would have been reimbursed for the cost of dumpsters and removal.

"We have to be informed and think about what we are doing before we act," he said.

Clawson said the comprehensive land use plan currently under development is essential to county growth and development. However, he said the commissioners should be following the process and ensuring the contract and obligations are satisfied for both parties.

"We as commissioners need to direct where this county is going," he said.

Clawson said all residents should be given the opportunity to attend all meetings. He is in favor of transparent government.

"There should be no se-

crets," he stated. "There should be fiscal accountability. There should be a report of what the commissioners do."

"That board is a county board," he added.

Clawson said Carroll Manor must be more self-sustaining for the county to continue to own it and it should house indigent residents.

"If it can't sustain itself, it needs to go," he said.

He said that, given the current financial state of the county, if there was a buyer for Deer Creek Park, it should be sold.

He said commissioners should have a roadmap of the future because they have to know where they are going and commissioners must make Carroll County an attractive place in which to live.

"This is the chance for every voter to vote for the best qualified candidate and make a difference in their county government," he said. "I hope there are changes made. I want to get on the road to recovery."

"If we have to raise taxes - let's do it and get on with it," he concluded. "The government is changing. We're going to have to be on the cutting edge or get left behind."

## Letters to the Editor

**From page 4A**

county's comments. There is a great need for us to create a unified front in saving our county's cities and towns. The Hoosier Heartland Corridor brings us just that opportunity. I would challenge all of us to get involved wherever you can. The time to act is now. As more jobs are lost, stores close and people move away we must act with a sense of urgency.

I would like to encourage all of you to step out of your box and get involved in some way. Help build our county, cities and towns back to a place we are proud to call home. I am confident that when people get involved and truly care about the issues it creates positive results, not negative.

I hope there is enough desire left in our citizens to tackle this obstacle, as we need to pull together and start to correct the issues at hand.

Brian Garrison  
Delphi City Council member

**CLAUDE & MABEL WHITE**

formerly of Cutler will celebrate their 40th Wedding Anniversary on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to send them an anniversary greeting, their address is:

725 E. River Rd.  
Margate, FL.  
33063

## Births

Kayla Mann and Bradley M. Gipson of Delphi are parents of a 7-pound, 9-ounce daughter, Tammy Arlene Gipson, born April 13 at Memorial Hospital, Logansport. Grandparents are Tina Valentine and Stephen Mann of Haleyville, Ala., and Bradley A. Gipson of Delphi. Great-grandparents are Judy and Oddie Harris of Logansport.

## Betty Minich



*Reunited*

Betty Minich, 87, of Flora, died at 8:54 p.m. Monday, April 21, 2008, at her residence.

Born Dec. 13, 1920, in Howard County, she was the daughter of Goldman M. and Lena Beamer Redding. She graduated from Carrollton High School in 1938 and from Kokomo Business College. On March 31, 1945, in New London, Conn., she married J. Ernest Minich, who preceded her in death on Feb. 10, 2006.

Mrs. Minich was employed as an administrative assistant at Delco from 1955 to 1975.

She was a member of the Deer Creek Presbyterian Church and sang in the church choir for many years.

She was also a member of Presbyterian Women and the Order of the Eastern Star, and a charter member and treasurer of Carrolltonettes Extension Homemakers Club. She belonged to two euchre clubs.

Surviving are a son and a daughter and their spouses, David and Marilyn Minich of Logansport and Barbara and Tom Weaver of DeMotte; five grandchildren, Mark Minich (wife: Jenni), Angela May (husband: Steve), Robb Minich; and six great-grandchildren, Drew and Adelle May and Phillip, Jana, Evan and Andrew Minich.

She was preceded in death by a sister and three brothers.

Service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Deer Creek Presbyterian Church with visitation from 10 a.m. until the time of the service. Pastor David Herron will officiate. Burial will be at Hopewell Cemetery, Deer Creek.

Memorials may be made to the Deer Creek Presbyterian Church. Reinke Funeral Home, Flora, is entrusted with arrangements.

Charles A. Lively Jr. "Chuck" Lively, Jr., 50, of Delphi, died at St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Lafayette, on Tuesday, April 22, 2008.

Born in Lafayette on April 2, 1958, he was the son of Charles A. Sr. and Dorothy Pantle Lively.

Mr. Lively was an assembly operator at Landis Gear, Lafayette, formerly Duncan Electric, for 25 years.

Surviving with his parents are three brothers, Matthew Lively (wife Cammie), Steven M. Lively, and John J. Lively, all of Delphi.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the 1 p.m. service on Thursday at Hippensteel Funeral Home, Lafayette. Pastor Nord Zootman will officiate. Private burial will be at Seceeder Cemetery in Lockport.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Kidney Foundation.

## Charles A. Lively Jr.



Delores S. Thomson, 88, of Delphi, passed away Friday, April 18, 2008, at 5:25 p.m. at Mulberry Health & Retirement Center.

She was born July 30, 1919, in Carroll County, to Charles and Floss Stewart Sieber. She married Frank K. Thomson in Hillsboro on Feb. 24, 1940, and he preceded her in death Feb. 8, 1950.

Mrs. Thomson was a 1937 graduate of Delphi High School. She worked in the cafeteria at the former Monroe Street middle school and retired in 1978.

She was a life member of the First Presbyterian Church in Delphi.

Mrs. Thomson liked to quilt and sew. She made over 500 Raggedy Ann & Andy dolls for children. She was also an avid walker, and enjoyed walking in Riley Park in Delphi.

Surviving are three daughters, Carolyn Landis (husband: Jim) of Hartford City, Pat Calhoun (husband: Bill) of Flora and Jane Miller (husband: Norm) of Delphi; four sisters, Joyce Goslee (husband: Dean) of Yeoman, Charlene Porter (husband: Mark) and Joan Rule (husband: Wayne), both of Lafayette, and Helen Akers of Independence, Mo.; five grandchildren, Michele Belligan (husband: Chris), Jill Dopart (husband: Jeff), Derek VanSickle (wife: Jennifer), Mark Calhoun (wife: Sara) and Jason Calhoun (wife: Lindsay); and five great-grandchildren, Kayla, Henry and Michael Dopart, Payton Belligan and Aspen Calhoun.

Mrs. Thomson was preceded in death by her parents, a son-in-law, Mike VanSickle, two brothers, John and Bill Sieber, and a sister, Margaret Bowker.

Services were held Tuesday at Abbott Funeral Home in Delphi, with the Rev. William McLean officiating. Burial was at Zion Citizens Cemetery in rural Carroll County.

Memorial contributions may be made to Riley Park, Delphi Public Library or First Presbyterian Church in Delphi. Envelopes are available at the funeral home.

Send online condolences to [abbottfuneralhome@verizon.net](mailto:abbottfuneralhome@verizon.net).

## Delores S. Thomson



Margaret A. VanSickle, 73, of Delphi, died April 14, 2008, at St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center, Delphi.

She was born July 29, 1934, in Boswell to J. Clark and Elizabeth Cripe Griffith. Her marriage was to Russell Noel VanSickle on Sept. 11, 1962, and he preceded her in death in 1973.

Mrs. VanSickle was a member of Delphi United Methodist Church.

Surviving are a daughter, Marcella VanSickle of Delphi; and two stepchildren, Linda Kingma and Michael Kingma, both of Lafayette; a sister, Mary VanSickle of Delphi.

Services were April 19 at Davidson Funeral Home in Delphi.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. Sign an online guest-book at [www.davidsonfh.com](http://www.davidsonfh.com).

## Margaret VanSickle



Ralph W. Wolf, 79, of Leesburg, Ohio, passed away April 15, 2008, at his residence.

He was born June 13, 1928, in Lafayette, the son of Winnie E. and Maud Lehman Wolf. His marriage was on June 3, 1948, in Monticello, to Betty L. Coghill, who survives.

Mr. Wolf was a 1948 graduate of Buck Creek High School. He had worked at the Brown Rubber Company, Globe Valve Company and Wilson's Meat Packing Plant.

He was an avid basketball fan. He is survived by his wife; two daughters, Linda Reeves (husband: David) of Leesburg and Nancy S. Markle (husband: Lester) of Kokomo; three sons, R. J. Wolf (wife: Bonnie) of Attica, Chuck Wolf (wife: Fay) of Camden and Steve Wolf (wife: Jackie) of Peru; a sister, Alice Schlaug (husband: John) of Lafayette; two sisters-in-law, Pauline Wolf of Lafayette and Imogene Wolf of Buffalo; 18 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Wolf was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers, Russell, Robert and Ross Wolf.

A memorial service was held April 19 at Abbott Funeral Home in Delphi, and was officiated by Pastor John Fitzgerald. Burial was at Morning Heights Cemetery in Delphi.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Fayette County, 222 North Oakland Ave., Washington CH, Ohio 43160, or to the Carroll County Cancer Association.

Online condolences may be sent to [abbottfuneralhome@verizon.net](mailto:abbottfuneralhome@verizon.net).

## Ralph W. Wolf

William C. Tyrie, 81, of Largo, Fla., died April 15, 2008, at Woodside Hospice.

Born Oct. 19, 1926, in Lafayette, he was the son of Wilbur and Nettie Leming Tyrie.

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II in the Pacific Theatre on Bunker Hill.

He moved to Largo in 1970.

Surviving with his wife, Norma, are seven children, Sharon Pace (husband: Paul), Judy Rosenkrantz (husband: Phil) Linda Bowen, Steve Tyrie, Ron Tyrie (wife: Connie), Glenn Tyrie, and Eileen Peitsch (husband: Ron); 14 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Baker Funeral Home, Flora, with calling one hour prior to the service. Burial will be at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Flora.

Memorials to the family are encouraged.

## Beverly L. Hinkle

Beverly L. Hinkle, 70, formerly of Flora, died at 12:55 p.m. Monday, April 21, 2008, at St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center in Delphi.

She was born April 21, 1938, in Carroll County to John and Ruby Hinkle. She had attended Carroll schools.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. today, Wednesday, at Reinke Funeral Home, Flora, with viewing one hour prior to the service. Burial will be at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Flora.

## Faye P. Gerbens

Faye P. Gerbens, 87, of Delphi, passed away April 17, 2008, at 11:15 p.m. at Heritage Healthcare Center in West Lafayette. She had been a resident there since Feb. 5.

She was born Jan. 9, 1921, in Burnettsville, to J. Wesley and Elsie Scott Peterson. Her marriage was to Ralph R. Gerbens in Delphi on Nov. 4, 1939. He preceded her in death Sept. 11, 1980.

Mrs. Gerbens was a 1938 graduate of Adams Township High School. Her first job was with the former Collins Transport Company in Delphi where she was employed for nine years. She then worked for 17 years at Delphi School Corporation in the first-aid room and the kitchen at the former Monroe St. middle school, retiring in 1986.

She was a member of Delphi Christian Church, and was church organist for 30 years.

She was a 50-year member and past president of the Modern Mrs. Extension Homemakers Club and a 50-year member and past matron of the Order of the Eastern Star in Delphi and Camden. She was active with the Girl Scouts and Brownies for 10 years.

Mrs. Gerbens enjoyed crocheting, flower gardening, birds and fishing.

Surviving are three daughters, Marilyn McKnight (husband: Bob) of Flora, Connie Stark (husband: Kenneth) of Columbia, S.C. and Linda A. Ross of Winslow, Ariz.; nine grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Gerbens was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, a sister and a granddaughter.

Services were April 21 at Abbott Funeral Home in Delphi, and were officiated by Jon Weaver. Burial was at the Masonic Cemetery in Delphi.

Memorial contributions may be made to donor's choice. Online condolences may be sent to [abbottfuneralhome@verizon.net](mailto:abbottfuneralhome@verizon.net).

## Letters to the Editor

### Supports Zirkle

This past Thursday evening I was given the opportunity to attend a town hall meeting at Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School where U.S. Congress Republican candidate, Tony Zirkle was speaking.

As the week leading up to the town hall meeting drew near, I began to do research over the two front-running Republicans for the District 2 Congressional seat. While looking at Luke Puckett's webpage, I saw many things I liked and ideologies I associated with myself. Then I took a look at Tony Zirkle's webpage. As I looked at the website there were a couple of things that really drew my attention. The first was his eye for detail on the issues. His webpage meticulously breaks down all the concerning issues facing our district, state, and country. Mr. Zirkle has left no stone unturned and really has shown his knowledge for the problems that face our society.

The second part of his webpage that caught my eye was his educational background. By education standards alone with two economics degrees, along with his military training, he is the most qualified. He also carries a law degree.

While at last Thursday's meeting I was able to ask many questions with no sidestepping involved from Mr. Zirkle. He was direct and sincere and I believe that is what we all look for in a candidate.

I encourage you to look at the issues and what a candidate stands for before making your assessment. I encourage you to go out and vote on May 6.

Quincy Cunningham,  
Delphi

## Kylie Ann Butler

Kylie Anne Butler, infant daughter of Jeremy S. Marcum Butler and Donyell L. Shepherd, Flora, died at 8:55 a.m. Friday, April 18, 2008, at St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis.

She was born April 17, 2008, in Indianapolis.

Surviving with her parents are three sisters, Acelynn Butler, Arcanna Butler and Brittany Butler; maternal grandfather, Donald Shepherd of Rochester; maternal grandmother, Janet Simms of Burlington; paternal grandmother, Shirley Marcum of Cutler; maternal great-grandmother, Faye Simms of Flora; and paternal great-grandmother, Wilma Marie Butler of Cutler.

Services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Baker Funeral Home, Flora, with calling one hour prior to the service. Burial will be at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Flora.

Memorials to the family are encouraged.

# ATTENTION

## SNOWBIRDS/SUBSCRIBERS

Changes must be in by Friday at 5:00 pm for Wednesday delivery.

e-mail your change of address to [subs@carrollcountycomet.com](mailto:subs@carrollcountycomet.com)!

or call 574-967-4135

*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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Flora, IN 46929  
800-964-0508  
[www.cfc Carroll.org](http://www.cfc Carroll.org)

*For good. For ever.™*