

## Auditor's staff position preserved

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

Carroll County Council managed to make the final budget reductions to reach the appropriation or spending number as determined the county could afford by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). The reductions were made at a Thursday afternoon special meeting.

At a council meeting earlier in the week Ron Slavens suggested the council consider eliminating a position in the auditor's office to help correct the projected 2008 overspending. To address the last nearly \$30,000 reduction needed, the council scheduled a special meeting 48 hours later.

Thursday's decision was not without a heated discussion which included a defeated motion to eliminate a position in the auditor's office.

On the chopping block was one clerk position. Prompted by Carl Abbott,

Slavens explained the auditor's office suffered the fewest budget reductions, by per cent, of all county offices supported by the county general fund.

In an effort to preserve her staff, auditor Beth Myers scoured other department budgets for potentially unneeded money, which she found.

"I can't hardly manage not to have somebody," Myers said in defense of her actions. "My office runs this county."

She said she lost a part-time person when the area plan office secretary position was eliminated. She said her staff helps that office's customers when the zoning administrator is out of the office.

Myers said before removing a position from her office, council should look at other courthouse offices where employees play solitaire, read library books and surf the Internet during office hours. She suggested personnel reductions be made in those offices

before her office where those activities do not take place.

Slavens emphasized the need for the county to have a zero or positive balance at the end of the year. He said without permanent cost eliminations that goal would not be achieved.

Ann Brown concurred with Slavens. "If we don't make permanent cuts and just take from here and there, we will be living on borrowed money," she said.

She continued to explain the council has depleted inter-fund loans and would eventually expend the entirety of the bank loan "and more" based on the county's spending history. She said all further budget reductions must be permanent.

"If this is all we do and we don't make permanent cuts, we'll be doing it all over again," she said. "We are gambling with people's lives. Where is the money to pay the interest on the bank loan going to come from?"

"If we can't pay people, we can't have them here," she continued. "It comes down to how are we going to pay for it? We aren't doing ourselves a bit of good by avoiding it."

Slavens explained DLGF has approved budgets for the past six years based on projected income that the county could not afford. He explained that to use the number DLGF projected as income for 2008, \$5,566,955, as a target to reach would be faulty reasoning. He predicted only reducing the budget to that amount would lead to overspending by the end of the year. He reminded council members the county started 2008 with a \$300,000 deficit from which it has yet to recover.

Abbott said he was focused on getting to the end of 2008.

"The budget itself has the numbers," he said. "We have great unknowns in front of us."

Myers proposed to reduce the Wabash Valley and social security ap-

propriations in the commissioners' budget, the transfer station budget for the refuse disposer, pay her own first deputy out of the plat book line item and deduct another \$1,000 from other unspecified line items in her own operating budget. Another \$4,106 was taken care of internally by council members.

Slavens made a motion to eliminate the clerk position in the auditor's office, which was seconded by Brown. Jerry Hendress voted in favor of the motion. Abbott, Rob Baker and Steve Ashby voted against the motion, making it necessary for council president Nancy S. Cripe to break the tie. She voted "no." Abbott moved to "accept Beth's proposal." The motion passed unanimously.

### Property tax bills

Treasurer Jane Brewington told council members it was their decision when her office would do tax collections.

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## REMC members vote down merger

By Debbie Lowe  
Staff writer

After months of discussions to bring about a consolidation or merger between the Carroll and White County REMCs, members of Carroll County REMC stopped the process in a close vote Saturday at Delphi Community High School. Although the nay vote stopped the immediate action to unite, it is unclear what the next step will be on the part of Carroll County REMC.

According to board president Tom Flora, the board has not yet met to form a plan about what to do next. Flora said Tuesday options include; to pursue a merger, wait for a year or longer

to pursue, or do nothing. Flora said he thought the membership voted to halt the merger because they distrust mergers in general.

Local resident and Delphi Chamber of Commerce President Krista Watson said there were issues raised at the Saturday meeting that were not adequately addressed. Watson said although the benefit of joining assets was discussed at length during the 90-minute board member presentation, Watson said ways to keep costs down after the merger were not explained adequately. She said the directors said the merger was in the best interest of Carroll County residents several times but they

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## Pork Producers join CCAA

By Jennifer Archibald  
Staff writer

Dave Lambert, president of Carroll County Pork Producers, announces that the Pork Producers organization has dissolved, but its traditions will be carried on through the Carroll County Agriculture Association.

"We have joined the newly formed CCAA," Lambert said. "All of our assets, manpower, and responsibilities are now combined and devoted to CCAA."

"The CCAA will continue to support our community just as the CCPP always has in the past," Lambert added.

He particularly mentioned cooking events, such as the 4-H Fair, Bacon Bowl, and Ag Day, and the Carroll County Agriculture Hall of Fame, as activities that will continue.

"Since there are only 10 farmers in the county who own their own hogs, and 50 who have contract hogs, it has been a struggle to find enough help with the cooking events," Lambert said.

The Carroll County Ag Association hosted its first cooking event recently, cooking from

9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

"It was extremely successful," Lambert said. "We had seven or eight volunteers per shift (three shifts total), cooking and serving all day. This is compared to the same two or three volunteers cooking all day for the Carroll County Pork Producers."

Hog farmers of the county organized as the Carroll County Pork Producers Council in 1968. It was formed as a branch of the Carroll County Livestock Breeders and Seed Producers Association.

Through the years, the organization developed into its own entity, Carroll County Pork Producers, and became known for its community activities and contributions.

Lambert has been involved in CCPP for the last 22 years, as

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## 7th annual Relay for Life begins Friday

### Comet staff report

Carroll County's seventh annual Relay for Life will be Friday and Saturday at the Carroll High School track.

Last year over \$30,000 was raised from the event and over

80 survivors in the area were celebrated. Over 500 participants walked in the event.

This year the goal is to raise \$35,000, celebrate 100 survivors, and have 1,000 people participate.

The overnight celebration be-

gins at 5 p.m. on Friday and ends at noon on Saturday. There are numerous community sponsors, including Indiana Packers, Brewster Insurance and St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center.

The relay involves teams camping out, walking laps on the track, socializing, and participating in planned activities. The teams have had fundraisers to support their efforts.

Families and individuals can come to the track and walk, and make a donation to the cause. Anyone can come and cheer on the walkers, eat at the Kiwanis breakfast at 7 a.m. Saturday and support other fundraising activities.

Shine 99 is broadcasting and doing live remotes Friday night and Lifeline is making a visit sometime in the early evening.

A full schedule of cere-



Were you one of the 150 who were 'flocked'?

monies, themed laps, contests, and activities is planned.

The opening ceremony begins at 6 p.m. on Friday with an invocation, singing of the National Anthem, balloon release by cancer survivors, and the traditional Survivor Lap. Following the Survivor Lap a group photo will be taken with reception following in the big

tent. The first lap for Relay Team Walkers begins at 6:30 p.m. The Rookie Lap for first-time walkers is at 7 p.m.

Also at 7 is the "Miss"ter Relay Contest. Mistresses dress up as Misses, all for a good cause. A winner is crowned at 8 p.m.

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## Bridge closed

**Carroll County Highway Department has replaced the deck on bridge 129 (County Road 600W and State Road 25) and is now working on road improvements to widen the approaches. Carroll County Highway Superintendent Ron Francis said the work should be completed by mid to late July, if all goes well. Comet photo**

## Carroll AD gets 8% raise

By Jennifer Archibald  
Staff writer

In a 3 to 2 vote June 17, Carroll School Board approved increases in administrators' salaries and a two-year extension of their contracts.

Superintendent John Sayers made the proposal for a two percent increase in the administrators' salary schedule, extension of their contracts to June 30, 2010, and a retention incentive for elementary principal Carolyn O'Connell.

Sayers explained later to the

Comet that the two percent increase applied to the two principals and the two assistant principals. Also considered in the package vote was an eight percent raise for the athletic director (and two-year contract extension).

The retention incentive for the elementary principal provides for a \$7,000 bonus if she continues to stay in the corporation for two more years.

Voting in favor of the package were Eric Johnson and outgoing board members Mike Eikenberry and Barb Payne.

Voting against the package were Dave Lambert and board president Sam Zook.

The Comet later asked Lambert and Zook for the reasons for their vote.

Lambert said his vote was against the contract extensions and against the raise that was for more than two percent.

The AD position is currently held by Shaun Rose. He has been the AD at Carroll for one year. His salary will be increased by \$4,000 - from \$50,000 to \$54,000.

Zook said he could have sup-

ported the pay increases and the retention incentive for the elementary principal, but his vote was against the contract extensions and against considering them at this time.

"Compensation shouldn't be tied to contract extensions or renewals," Zook said.

He said it's his understanding that if an administrator's contract is not to be renewed, he or she must be notified by the end of the calendar year. He said he thinks contract renewals and/or extensions should also be con-

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Mailing label goes here

### Pink flocks bring in the green

Several flocks of pink flamingos have found their way around Flora and points beyond during the late evening hours the past few weeks. They migrate to certain destinations at the request of individuals who have previously been hosts to the uninvited birds.

For a donation to the American Cancer Society, insurance may be purchased from the "Flamingo Mutual Insurance Company." The birds will never again land in those yards and those individuals can flock lawns of other unsuspecting friends and relatives.

Since the first of June approximately 150 lawns have been flocked by the Relay for Life Flocking Crew, raising well over \$3,000 for the American Cancer Society.

Flocking Crew members include Angela Ayres, Lesa Baldwin, Rob and Brenda Bonner, Michelle Broughton, Jodi Guise, Robin Guise, Deanna Herr, Rob and Elizabeth Kauffman, Crystal Keck, Michelle Keck, Tresa Leazenby, Teresa McGill, Emma Maxwell, Deb Raderstorff, Jerry and Cindy Reinke, Sara Thompson, and Laura Yoder.

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