

## Patrons speak...school board pauses on building project

### DCSC board vows to stick to no tax rate increase promise

By **Debbie Lowe**  
Staff writer

In a meeting designed to allow school patrons to express support for, and concern about, Delphi Community School Corporation's proposed \$13 million renovation project, patrons did attend and four of them spoke. Most of those who addressed the board referred to written notes to express the concerns and general support for the proposed project as well as the content of the resolution. No community member spoke in favor of the cost of the project. After they had their say, the course of the proposed project changed.

The public hearing before possible adoption of a resolution to progress toward securing funding for the project, as required by law, was held prior

to the Monday night regular business meeting of the board of school trustees.

Board members were reminded by one speaker they voted earlier in the year to not raise the tax rate to pay for the project. When it came time to vote to proceed or not with the project, the board took a step to the side. They voted to table the matter until "a later date" to allow for further discussion of the resolution and understanding of the taxing implications.

Everett Snoeberger of Camden said the school board was unable to maintain the same set of renovation goals in the past five years. Given that, he questioned the reasoning behind a 15-year bond commitment. He suggested the board adopt very specific goals with a shorter indebtedness period. He recommended

emphasis should be placed on students' educational needs when developing a plan.

Kevin Kremer of Delphi said he was in favor of a renovation project as a whole, but had reservations about a 15-year loan. He did not support the bond issue. He likened the board situation to a patient being taken to a doctor for a tetanus shot but neglecting to remove the rusty nail from the board that caused the need for the tetanus shot. He recommended the board set guidelines for a renovation project and not decide to do something and "hope it would work out" financially.

Kirk Schwarzkopf of Camden clarified that, according to the proposed resolution, the tax rate could increase from the current rate of roughly 51 cents for each \$100 of assessed val-

uation to approximately 55 cents. He reminded the board they previously voted to not raise taxes for the project.

It was revealed during discussion when the board voted to not raise taxes it was closer to 54 cents rather than 51.

Schwarzkopf also received clarification that board members, not the superintendent, would be the entity to make renovation project decisions.

Max Sullivan of Delphi urged board members to consider all financial issues facing taxpayers at the current time. He recommended completing smaller projects rather than one large one that would involve a long duration of bond repayment.

Financial advisor Lonnie Thurber explained the reason the tax rate could increase was debt repayment

was based on a 20-year repayment period and lower interest rates. When the repayment time was shortened, a need was created for the same amount of money in a shorter period of time. He also advised the numbers proposed were "worst case scenarios" and might possibly not reach the point of a tax rate increase.

"There are no guarantees," he said. Board members agreed to honor their promise to not raise the tax rate for the project. It was unanimously decided to work through issues in work sessions before proceeding with a formal resolution for a renovation project.

Melinda Rossetter noted she was disappointed at the lack of progress to proceed. She said it was the right

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## The final HHH leg is ready to go

By **Debbie Lowe**  
Staff writer

Oct. 22 will be a huge day for the Hoosier Heartland Industrial Corridor Inc., Gov. Mitch Daniels and for the State of Indiana's road system. That will be the day the last ground-breaking will be held for the final leg of the highway which will link Lafayette and Fort Wayne, traveling through the heart of Carroll County.

The public is encouraged to attend the 1:30 p.m. ground-breaking ceremony for the Hoosier Heartland Highway to be held at the Faith Baptist Church Community Center, located at 5526E. SR26.

Lafayette, just past the Meijer Superstore to the east.

According to Garry Petersen, senior economist for William-Lynn-James, Inc., roughly 360 people are expected to attend the ground-breaking, the largest celebration of its kind across the state.

"In honor of this road being dubbed 'the bridge to our future,' the Logansport Children's Choir will sing during the ceremony," Petersen said. Purdue University's "World's Largest Bass Drum" will also be on hand to give the celebration an air of grandeur and pageantry.

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## Jackson Twp. Park features new playground equipment



**Added fun at Jackson Twp. Park**  
Volunteers built this 26-activity playground structure at Jackson Township Park. It's designed for ages two to five. Funding came from the Jackson Township scrap metal drive and a grant from the Carroll County REMC (Operation Round-Up). Comet photo

By **Jennifer Archibald**  
Staff writer

Jackson Township Park has a new piece of playground equipment.

"It was a total community effort," said Jackson Township trustee Bill Dittman. "No tax dollars were spent."

Dittman said funding for the structure came from a community scrap metal drive, sponsored by Jackson Township, and a grant from the Carroll County REMC (Operation Round-Up).

It was built by the following volunteers: Kim Beamer, Austin Beamer, Craig Myers, Bob Crume, Joe Wallace, Joe Thomas, Henry Wilburn, and Dittman. Kendall Excavating

also donated labor and some material. Camden Grocery and Catering and Jean Beamer donated food for the volunteers.

"Planning started a year ago, and the actual building was over the past month, mostly on Saturdays," Dittman said. "It was built from scratch and is commercial grade," he added.

The structure is designed for ages two to five and has 26 activities. Dittman said some of the features are slides, monkey bars, baby swings, rock climbing ladder, and two towers.

The project was just completed Saturday.

"It's something that's been needed for a long time for this age group," Dittman said.

## County Surveyor's race

**Wayne Chapman**  
wants to continue career in county government

**Dale Snipes**  
provides choice for county surveyor

By **Debbie Lowe**  
Staff writer

Republican Wayne Chapman was first elected as county surveyor in 1992. Although he is not a registered surveyor, he said not being a registered surveyor has had no impact on the county finances. He said he can survey county roads and bridges per Indiana State Code and he uses a GPS for coordinates whenever possible on his job. He further said that his department has not paid for a registered surveyor, however the county highway would shoulder that expense when needed. Chapman said, as with a highway engineer, the state would enhance the county-paid salary of a registered surveyor.

Chapman said experience is important in his position. "It took me three years to

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By **Debbie Lowe**  
Staff writer

Carroll County residents will have a choice in who should become the next county surveyor in the November general election. Life-long resident and Democrat Dale Snipes decided he has the skills necessary to lead the county into the future, which will include the new Hoosier Heartland Corridor.

Snipes said he is an "analytical and thoughtful individual." He said he has done field surveying for the past 14 years and now works in the Tippecanoe County Surveyor's Office.

"I've gained a lot of experience there," he said. "Tippecanoe County handles very complex issues - they are a lot more commercial there than we are in Carroll County."

Snipes said Carroll County is facing a future of challenges with the advent of the Hoosier Heartland Highway. Although he is not a registered surveyor he said it was not necessary for the county surveyor to be registered. He said it was important for that individual to know a great deal about the work that needs to be accomplished for the betterment of the county.

"There are a lot of challenges with the new highway coming," he explained. "There's going to be drainage issues to be addressed. I feel like I am well-equipped to help the county and I want to see things improve."

Snipes said although he has not attended a drainage board meeting in Carroll County, he

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**Chapman**



**Snipes**

## St. E Healthcare may change hands

By **Debbie Lowe**  
Staff writer

Trilogy Health Services, a Kentucky-based firm which owns and manages nursing home facilities in several states, including Indiana, has agreed to acquire St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center in Delphi. The facility, owned by the Franciscan Sisters of

Chicago Service Corp., is located on Armory Road and has served the local area for 22 years. According to a Trilogy Health Services press release, the transaction is expected to be completed in a matter of months.

St. Elizabeth Administrator Jan Gibson said Tuesday she considers the sale to be very positive for the residents, the

staff and the community in Delphi.

"There will be no major personnel changes at our facility," she said. "We met with staff and residents last week and it seems to be, so far, so good."

Gibson said Trilogy owns 40 centers in Indiana alone, including ones in Kokomo, Logansport and Lebanon. She

said Trilogy is a for-profit company dedicated to providing good health care.

"We are progressing at a good pace," Gibson continued. "Families have received a letter of explanation about the potential change."

"But we are not anticipating the sale to be final until close to the end of the year," she concluded.

## County Recorder's race

**Chapman considers herself a 'proven performer'**

**Burton does not consider herself a newcomer to county government**

By **Debbie Lowe**  
Staff writer

Republican Barbara Chapman, running for a second term as county recorder, said if elected she would change nothing about the office, or the manner in which it has been managed. She said everything done in the office is prescribed through state statutes. However, Chapman said if money were to become available, she would put all information in her office online for easier access by the public.

Chapman described perpetuation and didactic funds, controlled by her office but not



**Chapman**

part of the county's general fund, as necessary for her to provide the current level of service in the office. She said that level of service was outstanding.

"We practice one-day documentation," she explained. "When someone brings in a document to be

recorded, we process it and return it to them by the next day."

She said the perpetuation fund, which contains approximately \$40,000, pays all expenses for the office except her salary and the first deputy's salary, which are appropriated out of the county general fund

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By **Debbie Lowe**  
Staff writer

Democrat and life-long county resident Mary Ann Burton, who is running for county recorder, said although she has not held an elected office before she is no stranger to Carroll County government.

"I've worked in that courthouse almost as long as my opponent," she said. "I've worked there everyday and I know what goes on inside of that building."

Burton said she worked in the area plan office for eight years, in the auditor's office for two years, in the recorders' of-



**Burtona**

office for a year in 1997 and most recently she is employed in the assessor's office for the past year.

"I enjoy serving the public and I now want to hold an elected office," she said.

Burton said because of her past work experience in the recorders' office, she "knows a little bit" about how the office is managed and the duties involved with the job.

"I want to see more working together between offices in the courthouse," she said.

Burton also said she would manage the office with "mini-

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