

Election night surprises are few

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Carroll County put the 2008 election behind it with one or two surprises, along with familiar faces in some of the same places for the next four years. In the end, there was little fanfare after the votes were tallied and most candidates left their party headquarters by 9 p.m. The race for county council-at-large was watched closely by all waiting for election results in the county clerks office. Incumbent Republican Carl Abbott prevailed as did newcomers, Republican Scott Ayres and Democrat Marion Huffer. "I'm anxious about winning," Ayres told the *Comet* by telephone after he was announced as one new council member. "I very much look forward to tackling the issues." "I wasn't surprised that I won exactly," he continued.

"I am happy that the citizens of Carroll County have put their trust in me." Ayres said the history of the county could not be changed, but he expected progress in a forward direction from this time forth. Incumbent Republican Barb Chapman was bested by rival Democrat Mary Ann Burton for county recorder. Burton was animated about her victory at the polls after they closed. "All the hard work over the last eight months has paid off," she said. "I'm anxious and exhausted." Burton said many friends, supporters and volunteers worked to bring her campaign to a winning conclusion. "I do feel good about this," she said. "I'm ready to serve the people and give them everything they deserve in the recorder's office."

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Democrats Jill Long Thompson and Dennie Oxley and 240 (2.75%) for Libertarians Andy Horning and Lisa Kelly. Republican Greg Zoeller was the county's choice for state attorney general with 4,681 (54.95%) votes to 3,838 (45.05%) votes for Democrat Linda Pence. County voters chose Tony Bennett (R) over Richard D. Wood (D) for superintendent of public instruction. Bennett received 4,520 (54.33%) votes to Wood's 3,790 (45.56%). Incumbent Democrat Joe Donnelly received the most

votes for U.S. Representative District 2. He received 4,533 (53.14%) votes to Republican Luke Puckett's 3,649 (42.77%) and Libertarian Mark Vogel's 349 (4.09%) votes. For State Representative District 24, Richard "Rich" McClain (R) was the county's choice with 5,118 (60.53%) votes compared to Timothy J. Banter Jr.'s (D) 3,337 (39.47%) votes. Brandt Hershman ran unopposed for State Senator District 7. The incumbent Republican received 6,600 votes.

Purdue Yard & Garden Calendar

By B. Rosie Lerner
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NOVEMBER HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

As houseplant growth slows, apply less fertilizer and water. If plants are dropping many leaves, move them closer to sunny exposures, such as west- and south-facing windows. Artificial lights may be needed to supplement particularly dark rooms. Pot spring-flowering bulbs with tips exposed to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional three to four weeks for blooming. Continue dark treatment for poinsettias by keeping them in complete darkness from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily until early December or until red bracts begin to show. **YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)** Prevent rabbit and rodent feeding damage by erecting physical barriers, such as metal mesh (one-quarter-inch) hardware cloth. Pull mulch a few inches away from the trunk, as the mulch provides a warm winter home for rodents. Chemical repellents also are available, but their effectiveness is temporary and not fool-proof. Prevent frost cracking (or sunscald) by wrapping trunks with commercial tree

wrap or painting the south- and southwest-facing sides of the trunk with white latex outdoor paint. Young, thin-barked trees, such as maples and many fruit trees, are especially susceptible. Be sure to remove the tree wrap by early spring to prevent overheating of the bark. Remove dead, diseased or damaged branches. Protect the graft union on rose bushes by mounding soil around the plants and adding mulch on top. Wait until several killing frosts have occurred so plants will be dormant when covered. Plants covered too early may be smothered. If you are planning to order a "live" Christmas tree, prepare its planting hole before the soil freezes. Mulch the area heavily to prevent freezing, or dig the hole and put fill in a protected, nonfreezing area, such as a garage or basement. Clean up and discard fallen leaves and fruits around fruit plants to reduce disease carryover. Continue mowing lawn as needed. As tree leaves fall, run them through your mower (remove bagger), allowing the shredded leaves to remain on the lawn. Be sure to mow only when grass and leaves are dry. An early November application of fertilizer can help keep lawns green into winter and boost early spring recovery. Apply one-half to 1 pound actual nitrogen, in either water-soluble or slow-release form, per 1,000 square feet of lawn.

Ardis Joan Towe Joyce



Ardis Joan Towe Joyce received her angel wings on Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008, after her battle with Alzheimer's disease.

She was born April 17, 1924, in Burlington, Indiana, to Beryle and Jesse Towe.

Joan lived in Carroll County, Indiana, until 1981 when she relocated with her husband, Clifford, to Cape Coral, Fla.

Joan was a loving wife and a devoted mother and grandmother. She was always known for her feisty spirit, her love of cardinals, and her fondness for antiques. She enjoyed crocheting and card playing with family.

She was a lifelong member of Faith Church of Christ in Burlington.

Joan is survived by her loving husband of 65 years, Clifford Joyce; their two daughters, Judy Joyce and Connie Rogers; three grandchildren, Sarah, Carl, and Craig Rogers; and her sister, Jerry Hunter (husband: Robert).

She was preceded in death by two other siblings, her brother, Corwin Towe, and her sister, Marda Gene Catron.

Joan's family would like to especially thank her caregiver and friend, Jamie Laakmann.

A memorial service in her honor will be held at 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, at Faith Church of Christ, State Road 29, Burlington. Pastor Steve Cole will officiate. Calling will begin at 3 p.m. until the time of her funeral service at 4 p.m. Family and friends are welcome to join the family for a dinner reception immediately following the funeral service in the church fellowship hall. Graveside interment will be on Sunday, Nov. 9, at 2 p.m. at Deer Creek Cemetery.

Arrangements are being handled through Stout & Son Funeral Homes in Russiaville (phone 765-883-5122).

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to either Joanne's Hope Hospice House, 27200 Imperial Parkway, Bonita Springs, FL 34135, or Faith Church of Christ, 1701 S. Michigan, Burlington, IN 46915. Envelopes will be available at the church.

Online condolences may be sent to www.stoutandson.com
Sleep tight Mother - hope so!

Mary J. Stokes

Mary Jane Stokes, 99, formerly of Brookston, died Nov. 2, 2008, at St. Elizabeth Healthcare Center in Delphi. Born Aug. 29, 1909, in Carroll County, she was the daughter of the late Elmer and Della E. Pugh Ireland. Her marriage was in 1932 in Delphi to Elmer Stokes, who died in 1964.

She was a homemaker and provided home health assistance for many individuals.

A sister Anna Bilyeu of Monticello, survives.

Calling is today, Wednesday, from 11 a.m. until time of service at 12 p.m. at the Brookston Church of Christ. Burial will follow at Hickory Grove Cemetery.

Sammy C. Propes



Sammy Christeen Propes, 88, formerly of Delphi and Idaville died Oct. 26, 2008, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Born May 21, 1920, in Carl Hill, Ky., she was the daughter of Ballard and Ida Jones Logsdon. Her marriage was on July 5, 1935, in Horseshoe, Ky., to Arlin E. "Pappy" Propes, who preceded her in death in 1993.

She was a homemaker. Surviving are three daughters, Gladys Brewer (husband: Don) of Margate, Fla., Luanne Barkley and Margie Ritchey (husband: Larry), both of Ventura, Calif.; four sons Ray E. Propes (wife: Judy), Billy Joe Propes (wife: Darlene), both of Idaville, Richard Propes (wife: Charlotte) of Lafayette and Jimmy Propes (wife: Lynn) of Ventura; one sister, Alean Harris of Monticello; 27 grandchildren; 45 great-grandchildren, and several great great-grandchildren.

Services and burial were Nov. 3 in Delphi.

Cynthia VanMeter



Cynthia Ann Pritts VanMeter, 58, died at 8:58 p.m., Nov. 1, 2008, at her residence in Delphi. She had been diagnosed with cancer six weeks ago.

Born July 18, 1950, in Logansport, she was the daughter of the late Roy and Betty Mabbitt Pritts.

Mrs. VanMeter was a 1968 graduate of Delphi High School.

She worked at the former Holiday Inn at I-65 and SR43 for many years and was employee of the year. She also was a former employee for several years at Peters-Revington Furniture Factory in Delphi.

Mrs. VanMeter was a pen pal to many around the world. She enjoyed crocheting and making lap blankets for nursing homes and the Indiana Veterans Home. She loved to read and collected Emmitt Kelly clown figurines.

Surviving her are twins, a daughter Traci A. Acabedo and a son Michael A. Acadedo, both of Delphi, three grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were an infant son, two sisters, Beverly and Barbara, and an infant brother.

Services will be today, Wednesday, at 11 a.m. at Abbott Funeral Home in Delphi. Rev. Charles Compton will officiate. Burial will follow at Maple Lawn Cemetery in Flora.

Memorials may be made to the Carroll County Cancer Association or the American Diabetes Association. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

Online condolences can be sent to abbottfuneralhome@verizon.net.

Jack Wallace



Jack Wallace, 55, of Delphi, died at 12:45 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008, at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Lafayette. He had been in ill health since February.

Born April 26, 1953, in Williamsport, he was the son of the late Lloyd and Norma Beavers Wallace. His marriage was on Jan. 17, 1974, in Camden, to Pamela A. Miller, who survives.

Mr. Wallace graduated from Delphi High School in 1971 and received his Associates Degree in Business Management from Ivy Tech in Lafayette.

He worked for Chromcraft-Revington Furniture Manufacturers for over 37 years. He was at the former Peters-Revington plant in Delphi for many years then worked at plants in Knoxville, Tenn., and Sumter, S.C., before retiring in 2006.

Mr. Wallace belonged to the Sons of the American Legion in Delphi.

He enjoyed watching NASCAR and going to the races. His favorite driver was the late Dale Earnhardt, Sr.

He enjoyed woodworking, fishing, boating, river activities and his red GMC truck.

Surviving are a daughter, Cari Henderson (husband: Ed) of Monticello; a son, Brian W. Wallace of Delphi; a brother, Lloyd Wallace (wife: Lona) of West Palm Beach, Fla.; a sister, Brenda Howard (husband: Jerry) of Monticello; and two granddaughters, Page and Payton Henderson.

Preceding him in death were two infant daughters.

Visitation is today, Wednesday, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Abbott Funeral Home in Delphi.

Services will be held there Thursday at 10 a.m. The Rev. Tim Stewart will officiate. Burial will follow at Morning Heights Cemetery in Delphi. He truly loved his wife, daughter, son and granddaughters. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the family. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home.

Online condolences can be sent to abbottfuneralhome@verizon.net.

Merle L. Kuns, Ph.D.



Merle L. Kuns, 85, died Oct. 28, 2008, at Oak Hammock at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

He was born March 9, 1923, in Flora, Indiana, the son of Russell and Gladys Beckner Kuns. He was married to Martha Maxine Albaugh of Flora on Oct. 7, 1944.

After graduation from Flora High School, Dr. Kuns obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture and a master's degree in parasitology from Purdue University. Following this, he obtained a Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Wisconsin.

His academic studies were interrupted by service in the U.S. Air Force during World War II in the European theatre. During his time in the Air Force, Dr. Kuns flew combat missions in a P-51 Mustang over France and Germany. For his valiant service, he was awarded the Air Medal and European Theatre Ribbon.

Dr. Kuns specialized in the study of tropical viral diseases. He and his wife lived throughout Central and South America while employed by the U.S. Public Health Service. Among his many achievements was his instrumental participation in research which elucidated the cause of hemorrhagic fever in South America.

The Bolivian government awarded Dr. Kuns the highest medal given by the government, the Order of the Condor for his efforts. During this time, Dr. Kuns also had a South American animal species named after him.

Following retirement from the U.S. Public Health Service, he served as a consultant for the Pan American Health Organization and as adjunct professor for the International Center for Disease Control at the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Kuns served as a volunteer curator of natural sciences for the Brevard County Museum while living in Cocoa Beach, Fla. He was an avid bird watcher, plant enthusiast, and lover of wildlife. He was a supporter of the Nature Conservancy Fund and the World Wildlife Federation.

Dr. Kuns was an extensive traveler and journeyed to all of the continents including Antarctica.

He had resided in Gainesville, Fla., for the past four years.

He is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife, Martha Maxine Kuns; two daughters, Sandra Lee Kuns and Mary Ellen Shelton; a brother Richard Kuns; and aunts, Donnabelle Myer and Rose Pullen.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Keith Kuns; and a granddaughter, April Shelton Piety.

Services will be held Nov. 8 at the Cocoa Beach Community Church in Cocoa Beach, Fla. Donations in Dr. Kuns' honor may be made to the Nature Conservancy Fund or the World Wildlife Federation.

John M. Austin

John M. Austin, 77, of Lafayette, died of natural causes at 11:10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 3, 2008, at Lafayette Home Hospital.

Born Feb. 7, 1931, in Cutler, he was the son of Maynard and Leafy Miller Austin. On Jan. 28, 1952, he married Anna E. Young, who survives.

Mr. Austin was a retired dairy farmer.

He attended Rossville High School and later achieved his GED while serving in the U.S. Marines.

He was one of the first Volunteer EMTs to start the Rossville Volunteer Ambulance Service.

In 1993, he and his wife moved to Lakeland, Fla. They returned to this area this past summer.

He was a member of the Pine Grove Old German Baptist Brethren Church in Lakeland, Fla.

Surviving with his wife of Lafayette are three sons, Jerry Austin (wife: Debbie) of Rossville, Jimmy Austin of Camden, and Jeffery Austin (wife: Cindy) of North Port Charlotte, Fla.; two daughters, Jane Clark (husband: Ralph) of Chicago, Ill., and Jenny Austin (husband: Bruce Snider) of Lafayette; a brother, Joe Austin (wife: Beverly) of Lakeland, Fla.; five grandchildren, Elizabeth Rotar (husband: Joe) of Lambert, Ill., Nikki Pearson (husband: Kyle) of Camden, Krista Niglio (husband: Dustin) of Cardiff, Calif., Lynn Holloway (husband: Ryan) of Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., and Jason Austin of Port Charlotte, Fla.; two stepgrandchildren, Kimberly Phillips (husband: Kevin) and Tony Snider (wife: April), both of Livingston, Tenn.; seven great-grandchildren; and four stepgreat-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Paul Austin.

Funeral service will be Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Middlefork Old German Baptist Brethren Church. Home Brethren will officiate. Burial will be at Middlefork Old German Baptist Brethren Cemetery. Calling will be from 3-5 and 6-8 p.m. today, Wednesday, at the church.

Memorials may be made to the Rossville Volunteer Ambulance Service.

On-line condolences may be directed to www.bodinefuneralhome.com.

Other Death Notices

Services and burial for **Catherine Marthene Peck**, 88, of Kokomo, were held Sunday in Kokomo. She died Oct. 28, 2008, at St. Joseph Hospital, Kokomo. Born Jan. 4, 1920, in Frankfort, she was the daughter of Ward and Mary Etta Johnson Dreyer. Her marriage was in 1940 to Claude Peck, who preceded her in death in 1999. Surviving are three sons including Robert Peck (wife: Debra) of Flora; a daughter; four grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

Edith K. Woolridge Kuhns, 75, died Nov. 2, 2008, at Clarian Arnett Hospital. Among the survivors is a twin sister, Ethel Rauch, and a brother, Carl Woolridge (wife: Ruth), both of Delphi. Services will be Nov. 6 at 1 p.m. at Hippensteel Funeral Home in Lafayette.

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