

Expected insurance rate hike stuns council

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

Carroll County Council members offered department heads the opportunity to address proposed 2009 appropriation concerns to them directly Monday afternoon. Some department leaders took advantage of the opportunity to present their opinions in person and some wrote letters. Budget figures were confirmed by a handful of department heads who attended the session. However an announcement from insurance broker Cindy Finkenbinder exemplified the county's financial woes. Finkenbinder advised it was expected county health insurance costs would rise approximately 47

percent in 2009 if the current benefit package was offered to county employees. It was noted a recent large claim was not factored into the equation which could push the cost even higher for county coverage. Finkenbinder said some insurance companies would not give a quote to the county due to its claims history. She said some claims were paid for individuals who qualify for Medicare but are not enrolled in the program. Finkenbinder said the provider continues to lose money with the current plan. "The health insurance issue is going to be awful for the county," council president Nancy Cripe said in a follow-up interview. "I don't see how the county can afford the

quote and I don't know how the workers will be able to insure their families." "This is going to be a huge burden on people," she continued. "We've obviously had some people with unusually large claims." The issue will be further discussed at an additional meeting set for Thursday. Health department head Dr. Jordan Dutter complained budget reductions could result in the elimination of the health department. He said current sanitarian Kris Jones is busier in Carroll County than his counterpart in Tippecanoe County because Carroll County has more septic systems than the neighbor to the south. He said the requested salary of

\$36,884, a slight increase from 2008, was necessary to retain a worker with the qualifications specified in the job description for the position. The council appropriated \$31,860 for the position. Cripe explained the reduction in salary appropriation was to bring the county position more in line with like-counties in population. She said those counties pay sanitarians in the mid to upper \$20,000 range. Dutter countered that the department was unable to secure a full-time nurse or food inspector due to the low wages. "There's a potential to not have a health department," he warned. "I don't think we're out of line for a county of our size," Cripe re-

sponded. Council member Ron Slavens suggested the board of health revise the job requirements to fit the position and the salary available. Carroll Manor Superintendent Martha Lewis reported she expected the facility to generate more than \$300,000 in 2009. She said residential inquiries are on the increase. Lewis said \$31,376.51 in donations have been received but not used. She said she expected to tap into the funds to pay end-of-year bills. Council members will meet Thursday, Nov. 20, at 8:30 a.m. to discuss the additional information presented and to make final adjustments to the 2009 budget before adoption Nov. 24 at 8:30 a.m.

EDC urges county to sell acreage to IPC

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

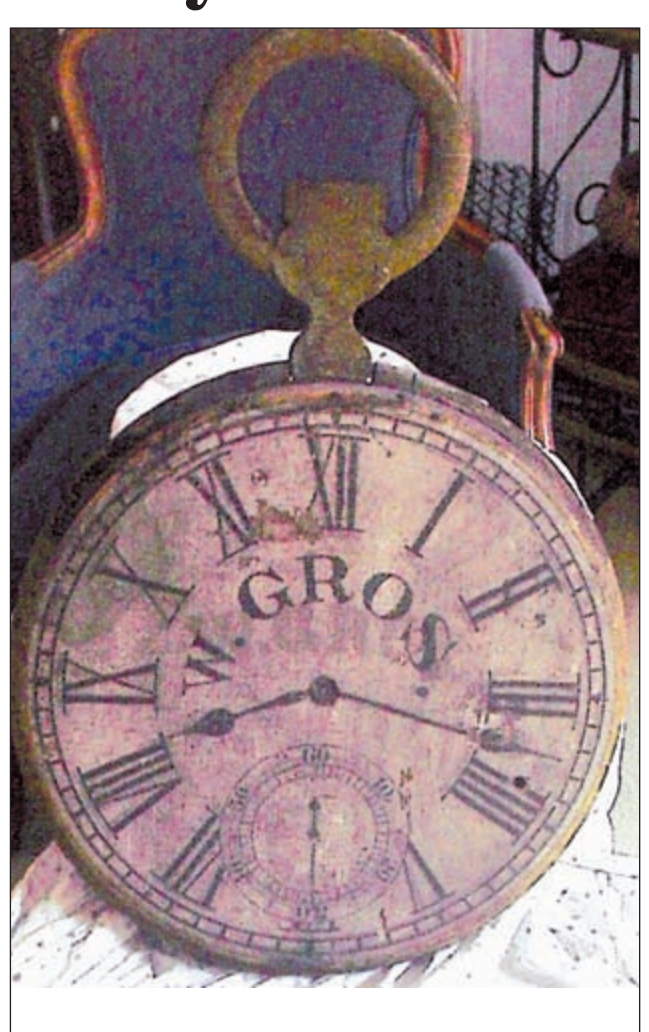
Carroll County Commissioners took the first step to turn the land around Carroll Manor into money at their Monday morning meeting. A non-binding resolution to begin the process for Indiana Packers Corporation (IPC) to possibly purchase approximately 30 acres around Carroll Manor was approved in a unanimous vote. A simple resolution was presented by Carroll County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Daryl Smith that gave county council and commissioners presidents, or their designees, the authority to "discuss options for the possible sale of approximately 30 acres of county land adjacent to the Indiana Packers Corporation to IPC. Any such agreement, fairly reached and of benefit to each, shall be brought back before this body for approval." Smith explained the land sale would benefit all parties involved. He said the Manor would benefit from 20 acres of landscaping around the facility for noise abatement and isolation. He further stated some or all anticipated increased tax revenue, from both income and property taxes, could be dedicated to the Manor for funding purposes. He said the county would benefit because, in the event of IPC expansion, the increase employee-count could generate roughly \$3 million in economic activity for the community.

He said everything should be "well understood" before any land sale agreement is reached. Smith said land appraisals were completed, however he refused to disclose the value information. He said he would share the information with commissioners outside of the public purview. **Mears appointed to boards** Outgoing county commissioner George Mears was appointed to fill the two-year EDC board position left vacant by the retirement of Ron Kennedy. "We need to get some results out of that committee," Mears said as he accepted the position. He noted the approaching construction of the Hoosier Heartland Highway in Carroll County as one reason for him to continue on the EDC board. Initially, commissioner Bill Brown moved to re-appoint Mears to his current EDC board position because his term expires Dec. 31. However, commissioners president Loren Hylton said he thought new commissioner Pat Clawson should help make that appointment. "I'd like to let the new commissioner voice his opinion about the next three-year appointment," he said. Mears said he wanted to be a "sounding board" for the public as an EDC representative. **See EDC page 5A**

Historical Society asks for help in acquiring county artifact

The Carroll County Historical Society and Museum are asking for the public's help in acquiring a rare artifact that is part of Carroll County history. They have been given the opportunity to purchase a wooden "trade sign" that once identified the business of jeweler William Gros in Delphi. Gros lived at 100 E. Main Street. He married his wife Fannie in 1883 and started a Jewelry Store business at 7 East Main, which is at the back of the building that is located on the northeast corner of Washington and Main. Gros passed away in 1928 and his business closed. During that time frame, as was common for the time, Gros had a sign made to advertise his business as a jeweler. The sign is a three-dimensional representation of a pocket watch, made out of wood. Signs like these were made to hang or stand outside the store so people would know what the store offered. They were to serve as visual clues as to what the store offered or provided. Trade signs are scarce today, and valuable, according to the Historical Society. In most areas of the country, these signs are considered to be classic American folk art. The clock sign was first found in the attic of the house originally owned by William Gros. The sign has been sold several times. The current owner of the

trade sign bought it several years ago as an investment and was going to consign it to an auction house out of state when the Historical Society learned of its existence and approached the owner with the possibility of keeping it in Carroll County. A Historical Society spokesman said the sign has the possibility of being sold out East for an appraised value of \$10,000 to \$15,000. The current owner has stated he would agree to \$5,000 for the Historical Society to keep it locally. He will also give the Society a carved wooden walnut shelf sign with "Wm. Gros 1867" on it and a display case he bought at the same time. There is a picture of the trade sign and documentation on file at the museum. The sign is in four parts - front and back are both 2 1/2" in diameter, and the center is 1" larger, with the top piece being the stem. From top to bottom, the sign is approximately 42" tall. There is natural patina left on the item, as well as dirt and soot. It has a large amount of the original paint in gray, black and gold and some red designs also. There has been no attempt to clean, paint or restore the piece. If in the fund raising efforts, the Historical Society garners money over the stated \$5,000, it will be given to the Carroll County Historical Society Building Fund efforts.



Jeweler's trade sign
The Carroll County Historical Society is attempting to purchase this rare trade sign in order to keep it in Carroll County, and is asking for the public's help. Photo provided

Checks can be made out to: phi, or to Cindy Knoth (of the Historical Society), Society Building/Clock Fund 7351E 975N, Delphi, IN 46923. 102 West Market Street, Del-

Retired teacher is Flora parade marshal



Georganna Julius

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

Georganna Julius, age 91, will be the grand marshal of the Flora Christmas Parade. The parade will be this Saturday, beginning at 12:30 p.m. from Jackson-Lee-Pearson. Georganna is a native of Lizton, but has been part of the Flora community since 1939. She graduated from Purdue University that year and began teaching home economics at Flora High School. She later received her master's degree from Purdue. After teaching 10 years, she took time out to start a family. She resumed teaching in 1959, this time in fifth grade. She taught in the Flora building her whole career, retiring in 1982. "I always liked all the kids, even the ornery ones," she said. Georganna married Bob Julius in 1942. He died in 1982, the same year she quit teaching. Bob had owned and operated Julius Clothing Store in Flora for 43 years. At

his death, there was no one to run it, so Georganna ran it for a year. "I didn't know beans about running a store, but I didn't want to just close it," she said. After a year, she was able to sell it. Both Bob and Georganna were active members of the community. Bob was president of the Flora Community Club and served on the town board. Georganna was president of Psi Iota Xi and worthy matron of Eastern Star. Georganna is still a member of the Community Club, as well as the Flora United Methodist Church. She still supports community endeavors such as the Carroll County Community Foundation. She has earned the right to just sit back and relax, but she still gets out when she can, and she says she has to stay busy at home. "I can't just sit and watch TV," she said. "I keep a book going all the time, and I've always got some knitting going." Georganna knits hats,

scarves, and mittens and then gives them away to family and friends. She said she's always pleased to hear from former students. Two of her regular visitors are Doris Payne and Garnet Snyder. They were in Georganna's home economics class in her first year of teaching. "There are some teachers you always remember and admire," Garnet said. "Georganna is a nice lady. I always enjoy a visit with her. She's interesting to talk to." "Georganna's very caring, and a great person," Doris added. Just last week, Doris, age 83, had a knitting problem she couldn't solve so she went to her former teacher, Georganna, for help. Georganna doesn't live in the past, but she does like to glance back. She recalls that when she went to Purdue, it was a much smaller campus, and only had one residence hall for women. Two women on the Purdue staff during that time were Amelia Earhart and Lillian

See Parade page 7A



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