

Watson is 28th Milroy winner

Susan Scholl
Editor

Award winners were announced at the annual Delphi Chamber of Commerce Banquet held Monday evening at the Wabash & Erie Canal Center.

The prestigious Samuel Milroy Award for entrepreneurial or philanthropic contributions to the City of Delphi was presented to Krista Watson. Delphi Chamber president, Watson was cited for "all she does to better Delphi."

"It's her main focus," said Belinda Weatherwax, Chamber vice president who presented the award to a surprised Watson.

Watson and her husband, Jeff, own several businesses in Delphi and the surrounding area.

The Making a Difference Award went to Carolyn Pearson, long-time Delphi City Council member and current president. The award honors someone who unselfishly gives of their time for the betterment of the community and the school system.

Times Past Restorations LLC partners Hank Ivey and Kevin Kologinsky were awarded the Community Appearance Award for the restoration and facelift of the old Masonic Temple building on South Washington Street that they own.

Kologinsky praised the city for its efforts to restore its old buildings. "You have a gem of a town here," he said.

Mayor Randy Strasser reflected on the past year and looked to the city's future in his State of the City address. He commented that "the financial status for the city is great."

Strasser said restructuring central dispatch and solid waste pick up have taken a lot of time and effort but will save taxpayers money.

"We want to make sure that we are providing quality service for the least amount of tax dollars," he said.

Strasser said that the city is working closely with the Carroll County Economic Development Corporation for opportunities and challenges. See *Watson* page 5A



Chamber presents awards

At Monday night's annual banquet of the Delphi Chamber of Commerce, special awards were presented to the following (l-r): Krista Watson, Samuel Milroy Award; Carolyn Pearson, Making a Difference Award; Kevin Kologinsky and Hank Ivey of Times Past Restorations, Community Appearance Award. Comet photo

DCSC patrons are headed for special election

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

A relatively new Indiana law paved the way for school district property taxpayers to vote on whether or not to sponsor multi-million dollar building projects. The measure was needed if project costs were expected to exceed property tax caps imposed by the state.

Across Indiana roughly six communities have participated in the referendum process and Clinton County will follow suit Feb. 2. Soon the Delphi Community School Corporation will be added to the list of school districts to put a building project out for a public vote.

DCSC school board members approved a \$13 million construction project in November. Superintendent Ralph Walker said Tuesday the total project cost for principle and interest could reach \$21,760,000, "at the absolute most," from the \$13 million building cost. He said school board members understood, when the project was approved, the capital projects fund budget would not tolerate the annual payment for

the maximum cost. He said they understood the project would have to be put before the voters to decide if they were willing to pay more in property taxes for needed school buildings' improvements.

According to Indiana Department of Local Government Finance Director of Communications Mary Jane Michalak, the purpose of the referendum process is to allow school patrons to decide if they are willing to pay for a tax increase above tax caps. She explained if more people vote in favor of the project than against it, their property taxes would increase. The purpose of the vote would be to circumvent the property tax cap.

To initiate the process petitioners were required to submit at least 100 verified names of DCSC patrons who supported a deciding vote. Carroll County Clerk Nancy Mattox said, of the 142 signatures submitted, 129 were qualified. Although the Indiana State Board of Accounts prescribed form was not filled out correctly by every signer, SBOA representative Tammy White explained that IC 6-1.1-20-11 provides "...a reasonable doubt must be resolved in favor of the validity of the signature..."

According to Carroll County Election Board Chair Sam Deiwert, there would be no general election this year. Therefore, there will be a special referendum vote in the spring. Carroll County taxpayers will bear the cost of hosting the process, although only school district patrons will be allowed to vote. Deiwert said he did not know how many polling

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Walker

"Those signing the petitions just wanted to see a vote cast about this."

Corporation superintendent
Ralph Walker

Jim Payne's horse wins Sire of the Year award

Comet staff report

At the Indiana Quarter Horse Association Banquet held recently in Indianapolis, Mister Treasury, a stallion owned by Jim Payne of Bringham, was named the 2008 Sire of the Year.

The honor is based on the stallion's offspring earning more points than any other stallion at last fall's 2008 Indiana Quarter Horse Futurity. Dr. Duane McDavitt, a national AQHA director, presented the award.

Soon to be 20 years old, Mister Treasury was named the Reserve Amateur Aged Champion at the All American Quarter Horse Congress as a five-year-old. Mr. T (as Payne calls him) is the sire of 95 foals, of which 42 are performers (point earners at shows). He has sired two Buckskin World Champions, six Buckskin Reserve World Champions, one AQHA Superior Halter Horse, and nine Register of Merits. Because of Mister Treasury and his foals' success, Payne has been able to compete at the state and national levels.

"Along the way, I've met many nice people and made several lifelong friends from across the country," he said.

The Sire of the Year award is the top award in the state for a stallion.

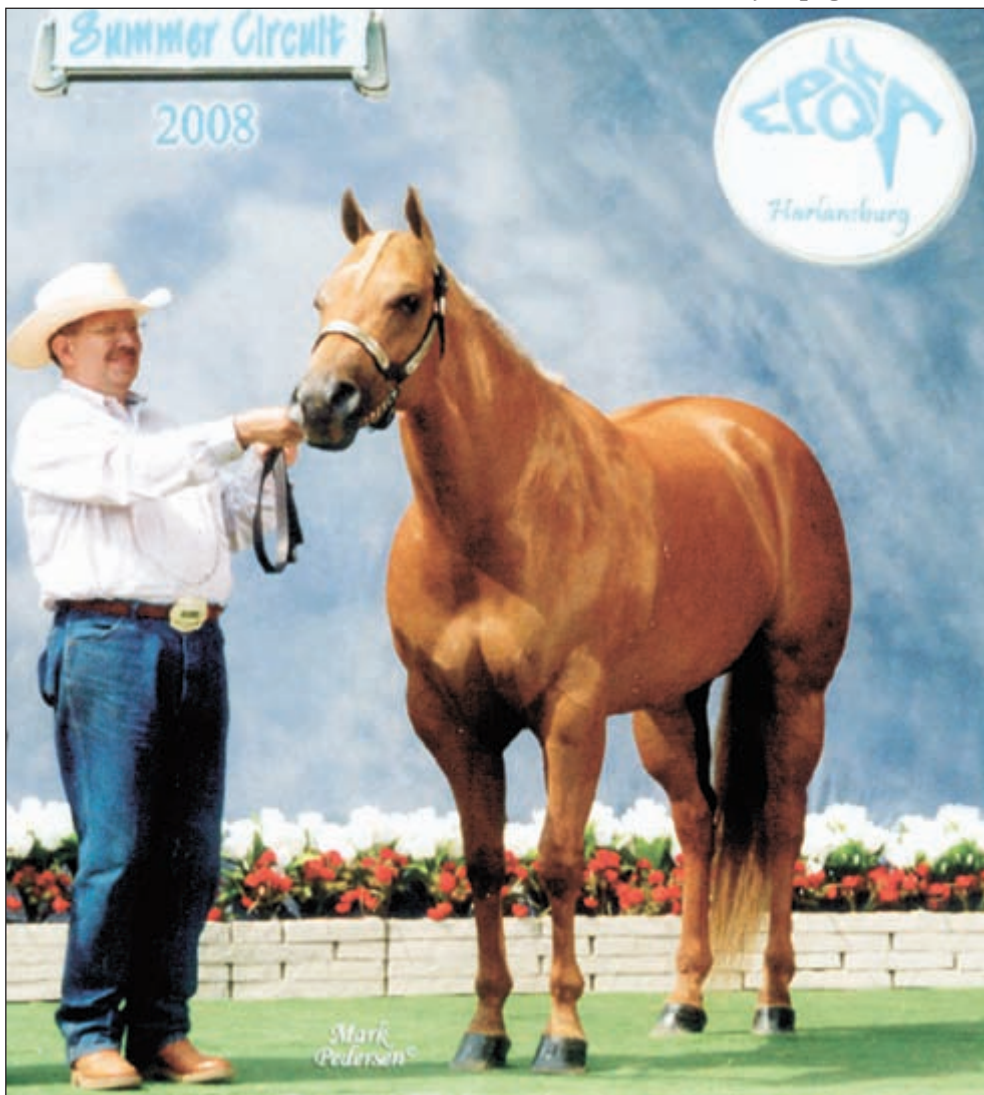
"This is a lifetime achievement award for a small breeder such as myself and I am very proud to have one of my horses earn this

award," Payne said. "I have been breeding and showing quarter horses for 42 years

and have bred or raised over 200 foals. This is the first time any of the four stallions

I have owned has won this award. I have been fortunate

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Quarter horse awards

Jim Payne's stallion, Mister Treasury, was named Sire of the Year at the recent Indiana Quarter Horse Association Banquet. Payne is pictured here with one of Mister Treasury's offspring, Yella Te. The four-year-old mare earned the AQHA Superior Halter Award last summer and also came in third at this year's Palomino World Championship show. Photo provided

Excel Co-op stockholders to vote on partnership with Co-Alliance

Comet staff report

The Excel Co-op annual stockholders' meeting will be Jan. 29 at 3 p.m. at the Best Western Brandywine Inn Reception and Meeting Center in Monticello. Stockholders will participate in a special vote on partnership with Co-Alliance LLP.

Excel Co-op was formed in 1995 when Carroll County Co-op merged with White County Co-op. The merger brought together nine plants in an attempt to better serve their customers needs.

Directors will also be elected at Thursday's stockholder meeting. Nominees

are: Dale Lehe, District 3; Fred Wise, District 6; and Chris Wiese, at-large west.

A cooperative (co-op) is a corporation that is owned by members. Members are defined as customers who are actively involved in production agriculture, both grain and livestock. The members

are eligible for patronage at the end of the fiscal year. Patronage is based on the type and amount of products purchased by the member.

The Brandywine Complex is located at 304 S. 6th St., Monticello. Registration begins at 2:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.



Mailing label goes here

Delphi Community High School presents
January 31 at 7:00 pm
 in the High School Gymnasium
Amanda Overmeyer
 DCHS Alum **IN CONCERT**
Tickets available at the DCHS Athletic Department
 Floor Seats - \$10 for both adults and students
 Reserved Lower Level Bleacher Seats - \$10 adult, \$5 student
 General Admission Upper Level Bleacher Seats - \$10 adult, \$5 students
 Call 765-564-3481 for more information.
 Proceeds to benefit the Delphi Athletics Department



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